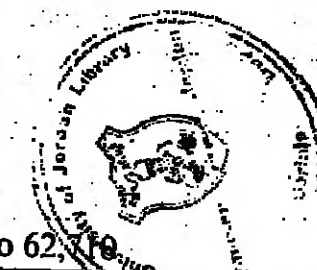


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## Car ferry founders in North Sea

By a Staff Reporter

A massive rescue operation was launched in Zeebrugge harbour last night after the Townsend Thoresen ferry Herald of Free Enterprise began sinking after a collision at about 8 pm.

The ferry, carrying 590 passengers and 60 crew, was sailing for Dover and hit a harbour wall, a Dover Coastguard spokesman said.

No immediate details of casualties were available in the confusion. Townsend Thoresen spokesman Mr Richard Mills said: "The Herald of Free Enterprise left Zeebrugge at 1900 local time, 6 pm British Time.

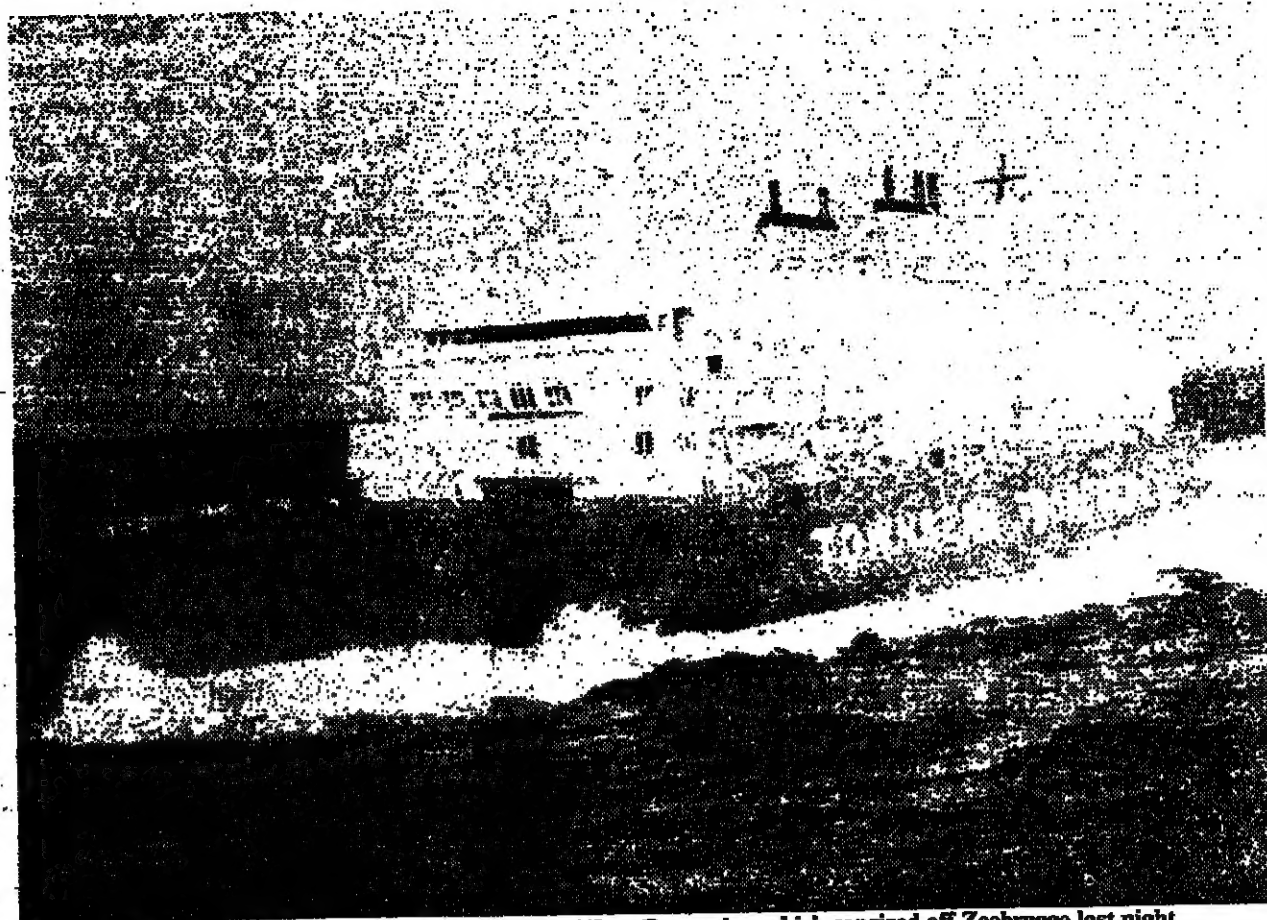
people as possible and two helicopters are circling the ship searching for survivors in the water," said the spokesman.

A maritime police spokesman said all emergency services were on standby to take casualties to hospitals in the town.

A Zeebrugge pilot office spokesman said "an armada" of every single available ship, both large and small, was involved in the rescue operation.

"The Enterprise has actually sunk - she's on her side there is only 25 per cent of her above sea level," said the spokesman.

Almost five years ago, two crewmen on board Townsend Thoresen's car and passenger ferry Free Enterprise III were injured by an engine room explosion while the ship was in mid-Channel. None of the 300 passengers was hurt.



The Townsend Thoresen car ferry, Herald of Free Enterprise, which capsized off Zeebrugge last night

## Labour reeling at 'loony' left leak

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock's careful attempt to avoid a renewed outbreak of party feuding in the aftermath of the Green- wich by-election disaster collapsed around him yesterday.

A wave of recriminations erupted after the leaking of a letter from Mr Kinnock's office firmly pinning the blame for Labour's difficulties and the Greenwich debacle on the activities of the London left and issues like "gays and lesbians" rights.

It handed Conservative Central Office another propaganda gift on the eve of today's Tory local government conference, with Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative chairman, alleging that the Labour councillors about whom Mr Kinnock was now complaining "were those he had appointed in last May's local elections."

Mr Kinnock went on to the conference yesterday with a statement confirming what the leaked letter from his press secretary, Miss Patricia Hewitt, had disclosed - that he wants a London summit of MPs, candidates, council group leaders and party managers to try to break the power of the hard left in London and prevent a "repetition of Greenwich."

He said that such a gathering would make it crystal clear that "those few whose antics attract sensational attention do not and will not exercise any influence on the policy, direction or leadership of the Labour Party." It would also "develop the most effective means of emphasizing the positive and creditable achievements of Labour in London and elsewhere."

Mr Kinnock said: "Those are the best ways to push back the prejudice fostered by our opponents - whilst showing people whose anxieties have been exploited that the sensible, radical and democratic values and policies of our party are strong and sustained."

Miss Hewitt's letter, to Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's campaign manager at Greenwich, and other party chiefs, stated: "It's obvious from our polling, as well as from the doorstep, that the 'Loony Left' is now very noticeable. The 'loony Labour left' is taking its toll. The gays and lesbians issue is costing us dear amongst the pensioners, and fear of extremism and higher taxes/rates is particularly prominent in the GLC area."

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, former leader of the Greater London Council and a parliamentary candidate, stated that it was "morally wrong" to make lesbians and gays the scapegoats for Labour's failure to surge ahead in the polls.

He suggested that Mr Kinnock should make a party speech spelling out where the party stands.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, interviewed on the Jimmy Young radio show, accused the left of elevating support for gay and lesbian rights into a central item of policy. "The people in Greenwich were not saying that you should discriminate against homosexuals but people were saying 'Why do you talk about it so much? Why do you not talk about the issues which are relevant to us such as schools, pensions, jobs and hospitals?'"

## Soviet optimism on missiles pact Shultz ready for visit to Moscow next month

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan is sending Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, to Moscow next month to explore the prospects of a superpower summit in the summer and to press for a historic superpower agreement on intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Meanwhile, the chief Soviet arms negotiator, Mr Yuri Vorontsov, said in Paris yesterday that there had been a breakthrough in Soviet-American talks on cutting medium-range nuclear missiles. He expected a treaty would be ready for signing within three to four months following the latest talks, which recessed in Geneva yesterday.

He told a news conference that "all the elements point to optimism" and only technical work on treaty language remained outstanding. The Soviet side planned to "take an attacking position" in pressing for the widest possible verification of the treaty.

Mr Shultz will hold talks with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, between April 13-16 on a range of topics. But the encounter will be dominated by the rapid progress being made at Geneva. It will be the first high-level encounter between the superpowers since last November.

Mr Maynard Giltman, who heads the Geneva talks, has been ordered to return to the Swiss capital immediately by President Reagan to keep the momentum going.

Mr Max Kampelman, the chief US arms negotiator, was summoned to Washington this week with Mr Giltman and Mr Ron Lehman, the other top negotiators, to give President Reagan an up-to-date assessment of progress.

The White House said after Mr Reagan met the three yesterday: "The level, intensity and seriousness of the effort in Geneva have brought us closer to significant reductions in nuclear arms."

The three negotiators cautioned yesterday that obstacles still remained. Mr Giltman told reporters that "100 per cent certainty" could not be achieved in any verification accord, but that the US was trying to get as close to a foolproof agreement as possible. That would have to involve on-site inspection.

Throughout yesterday there was a flurry of optimistic comments and assessments from top Administration officials about the progress on abolishing the Euromissiles.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said the prospects were brighter now that the Soviet Union had "decoupled" the issue from the Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the National Security Adviser, asked if a summit was possible this summer between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, said: "If there is progress - and developments look promising - that would certainly be a possibility."

PARIS: The USSR sought yesterday to put the US on the offensive on the key issue of verification in the Geneva arms talks (Diana Geddes writes).

Mr Vorontsov, the chief Soviet negotiator, said that the USSR was fully prepared to accept all forms of verification of an agreement on the elimination of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, provided the US was willing to do the same.

Speaking at a press conference at the Russian Embassy in Paris on his way back from Geneva to Moscow, Mr Vorontsov said that hitherto the West had always tended to take the offensive on the verification issue. But on this occasion, where the total liquidation of medium-range missiles was concerned, Moscow was as interested, if not more interested, than the West to ensure that all the missiles were physically destroyed and that nothing was done to replace them.

This, Mr Vorontsov maintained, would require new legislation in the US to allow the Russians access to all depots, sites and factories where missiles were based or manufactured.

Reciprocal arrangements for the Americans in the Soviet Union would cause no problem, he added.

## Mortgages warning by building societies

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

As pressure builds for an early cut in interest rates, building societies gave a warning yesterday that a one percentage point drop in bank base rates would not be enough to allow them to cut their home loan rates.

At present, mortgage rates stand at about 12.5 per cent and the societies say that a 2 per cent drop in base rates would enable them to lower their home loan charges by about 0.5 per cent.

But intense competition in attracting deposits makes it hard for societies to cut their rates.

So far, the authorities have not allowed interest rates to drop despite the strength of the pound. But it is expected that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will allow rates to fall at about the time of the Budget in ten days.

The Nationwide, the third largest society, said that if interest rates started to fall, institutions would try to improve the attractiveness of their savings products by dropping the interest rates slowly.

But that would reduce their scope for cutting mortgage rates.

Pressure on the societies to attract extra funds for lending is strong because the mortgage market is more buoyant than usual this year.

As well as meeting this demand, the societies have to prepare for the surge in lending during the Spring.

Sterling rises, page 13

## Teachers vote for more strikes

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Every primary and secondary school in England and Wales is to be the target of a new wave of half-day strikes planned by the two largest teachers' unions for the week beginning Wednesday.

The National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers yesterday claimed 80 per cent support from their members after a ballot on the strike action. Details are to be announced tomorrow.

The rolling strikes will, union leaders believe, affect every one of the 28,000 schools and nine million pupils.

The action by the unions is in protest against the Government's imposition of a 16.4 per cent pay deal and the replacement of negotiating rights with an interim advisory committee.

Next week's initial phase is to be followed by a long guerrilla campaign. The campaign "will go on for many months to come", Mr Fred Smithies, the NAS/UNT general secretary, said.

In the NUT, 115,541 members voted out of a possible 235,000, 78 per cent of them in favour of strikes. For the NAS/UNT, 84.8 per cent of just under half the membership of 128,000 voted for strikes.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said the ballot decision was a "resounding vote of no confidence in the Education Secretary."

Last night the result was hailed by Mr Giles Radice, Labour spokesman on education, as a "stinging rebuke" to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

But Mr Baker said: "This is a bad result for the militant teachers union leaders. In the teaching profession as a whole, some 400,000 teachers, only a third have voted for strike action or other action short of strikes."

If Mr Jarvis and Mr Smithies had been honest enough to pose their question to members purely in terms of strike action, as opposed to strikes or other action we can be sure that the proportion of teachers supporting the unions' call would have been much less."

The action will affect the new General Certificate of Secondary Education 16-plus examination, now in its second term, and government pilot schemes for appraisal and activities outside the classroom.

A ban on cover for absent colleagues will be a key weapon when details of union plans are announced this weekend.

## INSIDE 2 in Boy George case jailed

A couple who conspired to supply heroin to Boy George were each jailed for four years.

A jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, found Steven Luben, aged 36, and Diane Feiner, aged 35, both of Westbourne Terrace, Paddington, west London, guilty by majority verdicts. Page 3

## TIMES BUSINESS Ladbroke cash

A £294 million call for cash has been made to shareholders to expand Ladbroke, the betting, hotels, property and do-it-yourself store group. Page 13

## Policy warning

Insurance companies have been criticized by the industry's ombudsman for not drawing the attention of policyholders to changes in cover. Family Money, pages 18 to 30

## TIMES SPORT Andries bout

Dennis Andries, of Britain, the world light-heavyweight boxing champion, defends his title against the dangerous Thomas Hearns. Page 31

## Chelsea crisis

Chelsea have been hit by an injury crisis before today's League clash with Arsenal, still chasing the first division championship. FA and Littlewoods Cups. Page 36

## Portfolio Gold

● The £4,000 prize in yesterday's Portfolio Gold competition was shared by three readers. Details, page 3.  
● There is £12,000 to be won today, £8,000 in the weekly competition and another £4,000 daily prize.  
● Portfolio lists, pages 17 and 27.

## Poll surge by Tories

The Conservatives have drawn away from Labour to gain a 4 per cent lead, with support for the Alliance creeping up, according to a Gallup poll published last night. The monthly poll of 9,000 people carried out in February for BBC TV's Newsnight programme gives the Conservatives 37.7 per cent; Labour, 33.7 per cent and the SDP/Liberal Alliance, 26.6 per cent.

The latest poll would give the Conservatives a majority of 349 seats in the Commons - an overall majority of 48. Heseltine's comeback, page 2

## Royal emblem ban on whisky

Mr Dafydd Gittins, the Welsh whisky maker, has been ordered by the Lord Chamberlain to remove the three feathers emblem of the Prince of Wales from his bottles.

This was the first reported public appearance by the chairman of the Burma Socialist Programme Party since his planned visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore on February 19 was called off at the last moment.

## Togo admitted

Washington (AP) - The Republic of Togo has become the 113th member of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, Intelsat announced.

## Forces recruits 'failing fitness tests'

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Recruits to the Armed Forces are less fit and physically weaker than their predecessors because of the lack of intensive training in schools, according to reports collected by the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

The army's personnel selection centre at Sutton Coldfield says that it "gets the definite impression that young men are less physically active now than a decade ago. Participation in energetic sports is on the decrease."

All adult and junior recruits attend the centre and take the entry fitness test. Although the army reports that the test is "not difficult", 15 per cent of the junior and 9 per cent of the adult recruits fail.

But one of the reports says: "Even in units, who tend to receive the best quality recruits and who state they are healthy and have potential, the comment is that their potential could have been better developed if, over their school years, they had received more progressive formal PT. The average recruit would appear to have a poor standard of fitness."

The report further points out that from all the applicants to the Army Careers Information Office only a third are accepted as recruits and take the test. "It may not be unreasonable to assume that we are seeing the best third of the original total and the balance will be of a comparable, or lower, standard of fitness."

Mr Nigel Hook, the council's senior technical officer, adds: "During conversations with various officers with the PE branch of the Royal Navy it was indicated that the current fitness levels of recruits was very unsatisfactory." Tests showed there was a 50 per cent failure rate on the basic fitness training.

"A survey conducted over the past 10 years had indicated that 17 per cent of the 4,000 intake were unable to pass the basic swimming test."

Both the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre in Exmouth and HMS Raleigh say that present-day recruits are less strong in their upper body than their predecessors.

The fitness of schoolchildren, which is the subject of *Panorama* on BBC Television on Monday, was examined by Mr Neil Armstrong, a lecturer at Exeter University. "Children are nowhere as active as they should be. Many physical education teachers think their lessons are more active than they actually are."

Dr John Kane, principal of West London Institute of Physical Education, says: "There has not been an encouraging amount of activity until comparatively recently. But over the past two years because of changes in the curriculum of schools, there has been a startling increase in physical health."

## Leniency call for Briton on death sentence

By Robin Young

Derrick Gregory, a former painter and decorator from Surrey, was yesterday sentenced to be hanged in Penang after being found guilty of trying to smuggle more than a pound of heroin out of Malaysia in 1982.

Leaving the court, he told reporters that the verdict was what everyone had expected. "I still say that I had a fair trial, but we have now got to lodge an appeal and see what that will bring."

Sir Barney Hayhoe, the Conservative MP for Brentford and Isleworth, said he was "shocked and saddened" by the sentence. The circumstances of Gregory's case "merit more compassionate and merciful treatment than he has received".

Mental plea rejected, page 6

## BMA urges hepatitis jabs for NHS staff

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

About 500,000 National Health Service staff, from surgeons to hospital porters, should be immunized against hepatitis B to control the spread of the disease, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The recommendation that will be sent to the Department of Health could cost the health service as much as £2.5 million because of the vaccine's high price - about £70 per person.

About 1,300 cases of hepatitis B occur in Britain every year and around 30 per cent prove fatal. The illness can progress to chronic liver disease and liver cancer.

More than 200 million people in the world are believed to be carriers of the infection which can be easily transmitted in blood.

The BMA is concerned that thousands of NHS employees, including doctors and nurses, are at risk of either transmitting or receiving the infection during their contact with patients.

Because the infection can be life-long, health workers who become infected have to be withdrawn from patient contact, the BMA said. That had meant, in some cases, surgeons having to give up operating and being retained in another field.

Apart from health workers, among those at very high risk from infection are the sexually promiscuous, particularly homosexuals, the BMA said. The disease is more prevalent in adults in large towns and cities and among people living in poor socio-economic circumstances.

One of the problems associated with hepatitis B vaccines is that they may confer only temporary immunity in some cases.

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Militant accused of funds fraud

Militant Tendency was last night accused of siphoning off up to £50,000 from members of the Civil and Public Services Association to meet the legal expenses of the defeated left-wing candidate for the job as general secretary of Britain's largest civil service trade union.

The right-wing leaders of the association will seek the national executive's authority next Wednesday for a full investigation into the spending of funds raised by branches.

It is claimed that branches were duped by an appeal for funds to defray legal costs of the "CPSA Election Defence Fund" on official headed notepaper from the association's headquarters in Wandsworth Common, south west London, when in fact it was a Militant Tendency fund-raising tactic.

## Pupils in Aids advice

Teachers have been told to ban classroom experiments in which children take small samples of their own blood to reduce the risk of spreading the Aids virus.

The instruction, confirming recent guidance by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, is contained in a booklet on Aids published by the Department of Education and Science.

It was sent out yesterday to all teachers, lecturers and youthworkers.

Launching the booklet in London, Mr Baker said that an Aids video for schools aimed at 13-16 year olds would also be available this summer.

• *Aids: some questions and answers* (Department of Education and Science).

## Russians relent Duchess to 'fly' jet

The five-year ordeal of Donald Dean, a photographer, whose Russian wife has repeatedly been refused permission to leave the Soviet Union to join him in this country, is expected to end soon.

The Russians have granted Mrs Maria Dean the passport she requires to travel and join her husband at his home near Harrogate in North Yorkshire.

Since their marriage in Moscow in 1982, her requests for a passport have been turned down. She will arrive in Britain on March 22.

The Duchess of York, who recently received her wings, will get the chance to sit at the controls of a supersonic Concorde jet on Tuesday when she takes a behind-the-scenes look at the British Airways operation at Heathrow Airport.

The private visit, hosted by the airline's chairman, Lord King of Warrimbury, includes a visit to the airline's training centre at Cranbrook, west London, where she will be able to try a flight simulator.

She then goes on to the Heathrow maintenance base to see Concorde.

## Gales hamper rescue

Force eight gales in the Channel yesterday forced the expert committee overseeing the salvage of the beleaguered coaster, Hornstrand, to postpone until Monday any attempt to go on board the ship and ventilate its hold.

Commander David Elliot, the regional controller of HM Coastguard at Falmouth, said that they were satisfied that the fire on the Hornstrand was out but would require a forecast of 48 hours' moderate weather before boarding.

The forecast was for high winds to continue through the weekend. The delay was solely caused by the difficulty of getting on board in rough weather.

The Hornstrand was abandoned by its crew when fire broke out on Tuesday.

## Kent on the law

Bruce Kent, the vice-chairman of CND, yesterday advocated breaking the law as one way to stop the production of nuclear weapons.

Mr Kent said that the nuclear deterrent "clearly poses a criminal behaviour."

He added: "The only thing you can do is to take some action even if it violates some domestic law."

He was speaking to Robert Kee on the *Seven Day* programme which will be broadcast on Channel 4 tonight.



## Visas hitch hits film

Channel 4 may have to cancel an episode of the *Equinox* science series about the American space programme because of a visas hitch.

The programme, *Mission to Mars*, was commissioned from an independent production company, but an application for journalists' visas was refused.

They can only be issued to "primary employees".

Channel 4 has no primary employees, commissioning its programmes from outsiders.

• The BBC is expected next week to announce a new transmission date for *Night Moves*, the drama-documentary about the road haulage industry cancelled in December.

## South Pole expedition turns back

An expedition to the South Pole has been forced to turn back and return to its ship, the *MV Aurora*, because the vessel was in danger from ice in the Antarctic, it was disclosed yesterday.

The ship was said to be heading for warmer waters with the 26 members of the 90 Degrees South expedition (four humans and 22 dogs).

By radio from the *Aurora* yesterday Mr Neil McIntyre, expedition glaciologist, spoke of the team's disappointment at abandoning the attempt to follow the footsteps of Roald Amundsen only four degrees short of the Pole.

"We had no real choice. We needed another 10 days to reach the Pole and, as proved correct, that would have put this ship in danger," he said.

The expedition, led by Dr Monica Kristensen, a Norwegian, included Mr McIntyre and two Danish dog handlers, Mr Jan Almqvist and Mr Jacob Meisner. They covered 900 miles of the journey and turned back.

"We covered the most difficult parts of the journey, climbing 10,000ft up on to the trans Antarctic glacier. We had overcome all the main obstacles but there was simply not enough time left," Mr McIntyre said.

## Ealing's great leap forward

Brian and Mary Pamment took an understandable modicum of comfort from the fact that they paid lower rates for their three-bedroom semi in Labour-controlled Ealing than their near neighbours in Conservative-controlled Harrow.

Until yesterday — when they woke up to learn that Ealing council had approved a rate increase of 64.5 per cent. The increase takes the rates on 154 Wood End Gardens, Ealing, (value £65,000) on its present £300 to £493.

On the other side of the railway track, which runs along the boundaries of the two boroughs, David and Marcia Deighton face a rate increase of only 3.5 per cent from £420 to £443 for their similar, but slightly larger, house at 74 Wood End Avenue, Harrow (value £75,000).

Mrs Pamment said: "We were prepared for a rise but this is beyond all reason. I don't know how the council got itself into this mess."

Opposition leaders claim that the mess dates from the day, 10 months ago, when Labour won control from the Conservatives. They feel that Ealing, an amalgam of city and multi-race communities, has fallen victim to the eccentric and expensive excesses of the hard left.

Mr Len Turner, Labour's engagingly accessible leader,

As the "loony left" rumour continues to haunt Mr Neil Kinnock, William Greaves visits Ealing, west London, where the Labour leader lives and where the left-wing council has imposed Britain's biggest rates increase.

seemed pained when *The Times* put this charge to him. "We are not a bunch of rampant left-wingers," he insisted. "I would describe us as moderates."

Even the suggestion that his council must have spent money it could not afford meets with the same urbane rebuttal.

He said: "I know this is a massive rise but we have done only the things we could not afford to leave undone, £65 million on housing repairs, for instance."

But critics point also to the introduction of a network of officers into every council department to promote positive discrimination in favour of homosexuals and ethnic minorities; the award of bonus housing points to homosexuals; and an official director at senior schools, signed by the education committee chairman, Hilary Benn, to "develop respect for acceptance of individuals."

Mr Martin Mallam, leader of the opposition, says that the

Conservatives could have left the rates unchanged if they had stayed in power and is contemptuous of Labour's claim to be moderate.

"Absolute rubbish," he said. "They have three people fully engaged on making an audit of police activities from 1970 to the present day. Their equal opportunity units are costing £3 million and their advisers to each department and the schools cost another £2.6 million."

"When we were in power we had about 30 homeless families in bed and breakfast accommodation. They take them in from all over and have 950. Ealing has become known throughout the land as a bed and breakfast paradise."

Meanwhile all is not sweetness and light in penny-cious Harrow. The Deightons, who have sons aged three and 18 months, complain that in Ealing playschool and nursery school start a year earlier and the library "seems to be full of paper backs. We would far rather they raised the rates a bit and gave us better facilities."

The Harrow leader, Mr Donald Abbott, said: "We use good old Tory common sense and cut out the frills."

Words which might be hard for Ealing's most famous resident to swallow. His local council's decision has just added £333 to his rates bill.

Ealing council, which announced the 64.5 per cent rates increase on Thursday night, was described as "evil" in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, speaking in a backbench debate on inner cities, said the "vicious rate increase" would hit the elderly, those on low incomes, and industries.

Mr Greenway said that Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, had recently supported the council's policies. As an Ealing resident, Mr Kinnock would face a £333 rate rise.

To Tory gasps he said the council was spending £12,000 on an anti-apartheid festival, £200,000 on a race equality committee, £200,000 on women's advisers, and £10,000 on the creation of peace parks.

School pupils were being exposed to a campaign of lesbianism and homosexuality.

He said: "A senior Labour

councillor has said that sexual equality is more important for children in schools than maths and English."

Mr Greenway also claimed that gay and lesbian couples were now being given housing priority. He said councils like Ealing should be rate capped "for the sake of the citizens and industry."

But Labour frontbench spokesman, Mr John Fraser, accused him of producing a "list of distortions" about the council. "Your speech was intended only to bring the Labour Party into disrepute. It contained nothing constructive at all."

Winding-up the debate, Mr Richard Tracey, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, condemned Ealing as an "abhorrent" but not uncommon, example among Labour-controlled London boroughs.

Mr Kinnock would have to set about writing more letters to Labour authorities "point-

ing out what horrific consequences there could be for the Labour Party if the Ealing example were to be copied."

He said the problems of the inner city were "complex and deep-seated."

"The Government's policy is to make inner cities more competitive and to improve the quality of life of their residents. One of our prime objectives is to bring inner city sites back into use for development."

Land hoarding by local authorities and other public sector bodies was a problem. To tackle it, the Government had set up the Land Register system which had brought back into use 50,000 acres of land in the past four years.

Derelict land grants were helping to prepare 3,200 acres of land for development every year, which corresponded to "an area...the size of Wembley Stadium every working day".

Parliament, page 4

# Loss of Burnham behind teachers' strike move

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

The Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill which triggered off yesterday's announcement of a new wave of strikes in schools, was heralded last October by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, as his chosen method of ending the long deadlock with the unions.

He saw it as a politically impressive way of dealing with the intransigent structure of teachers' pay negotiations, which have been a running theme during nearly four years of almost unbroken disruption in schools.

During that time the National Union of Teachers, which counts on 235,000 of the 400,000 teachers in England and Wales, has dominated events, in spite of losing its majority on the teachers negotiating panel just over a year ago.

A main plank in the NUT's stand has been its refusal until very recently, to discuss pay and conditions simultaneously. The make-up of the Burnham Committee, set up under the Teachers' Remuneration Act, 1965, forbade the two elements of teachers' working lives to be discussed together, and the union exercised its veto on any attempts to do so outside the committee.

The local authorities and the teachers' unions moved a long way, in comparison with past performance, towards a workable deal last November, under the auspices of Acas, six weeks after Mr Baker first announced that he would impose a settlement and take matters into his own hands.

That deal offered the classroom teacher the chance to earn more than £15,000 and provided some incentive for senior teachers. But Mr Baker denounced the deal as wrongly structured and too expensive — officials estimated that the local authorities' offer to unions of better working conditions would cost around £300 million — and went ahead with his own plans to impose a deal through legislation.

His case was supported by the breakdown of unity among teachers' unions. Two of the four who initiated the local authorities-union deal in November pulled out. The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which is joining the NUT in strike action, was never a party to the Acas deal on the grounds that the cost

envelope of £608 million imposed by Mr Baker could not be accepted.

Although he has raised his own offer to classroom teachers from £12,700 at the top of the scale to £13,300, matching a deal made in Scotland after an independent review, at the expense of senior promoted posts, Mr Baker's offer is obscured in teachers' minds by his abolition of the Burnham Committee, which he is replacing with an interim advisory body to report back in three years.

The teachers' unions have maintained for four years that

their pay has fallen in value by 34 per cent since 1974, and union leaders were at pains yesterday to make clear that they still do not regard Mr Baker's offer as anywhere near their expectations, although closer than the 69 per cent offered by local authorities a year ago.

It is the abolition of their negotiating rights that has spurred the more militant leaders of the NUT and NAS/UTW to renew strike action. They maintain that Mr Baker's promise that the interim advisory committee is interim is "propaganda", not to be trusted.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, yesterday took out a writ against Associated Newspapers, alleging that its relaunch of *The Evening News* was designed to sabotage the launch of *The London Daily News*.

The writ in the Chancery Division of the High Court alleged that Associated's publication of its evening title seven years after it was closed was an attempt at "passing off" the paper as *The London Daily News*.

At the same time, Mr Maxwell dropped his action seeking an injunction against *The London Evening Standard* for allegedly intimidating news vendors.

Associated Newspapers said last night that it intended to vigorously contest the writ.

Sources said that Associated Newspapers and its executives were considering taking out writs against Mr Maxwell alleging defamation.

Mr Bert Hardy, chief executive of *The Evening Standard*, said Mr Maxwell's latest writ had been taken out for publicity value.

He said that Mr Maxwell's actions "were getting to the point of being ridiculous. His statements are ludicrous."

At the end of the second week in the London evening newspaper war, both sides continued to claim victory.

In a front-page column signed by Mr Maxwell, *The London Daily News* claimed to have disposed *The Evening Standard* as the market leader.

Mr Maxwell said *The London Daily News* was selling between 500,000 and 575,000 copies a day, while the rival *Evening News* had "floated like a brick" with 95 per cent of its copies returned unsold every night.

At *The Evening Standard*, the line was directly opposite. Spokesmen claimed its sales claims were authentic and would be reported to the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

## Maxwell issues a writ over 'sabotage'

By Jonathan Miller Media Correspondent

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, yesterday took out a writ against Associated Newspapers, alleging that its relaunch of *The Evening News* was designed to sabotage the launch of *The London Daily News*.

The writ in the Chancery Division of the High Court alleged that Associated's publication of its evening title seven years after it was closed was an attempt at "passing off" the paper as *The London Daily News*.

At the same time, Mr Maxwell dropped his action seeking an injunction against *The London Evening Standard* for allegedly intimidating news vendors.

Associated Newspapers said last night that it intended to vigorously contest the writ.

Sources said that Associated Newspapers and its executives were considering taking out writs against Mr Maxwell alleging defamation.

Mr Bert Hardy, chief executive of *The Evening Standard*, said Mr Maxwell's latest writ had been taken out for publicity value.

He said that Mr Maxwell's actions "were getting to the point of being ridiculous. His statements are ludicrous."

At the end of the second week in the London evening newspaper war, both sides continued to claim victory.

In a front-page column signed by Mr Maxwell, *The London Daily News* claimed to have disposed *The Evening Standard* as the market leader.

Mr Maxwell said *The London Daily News* was selling between 500,000 and 575,000 copies a day, while the rival *Evening News* had "floated like a brick" with 95 per cent of its copies returned unsold every night.

At *The Evening Standard*, the line was directly opposite. Spokesmen claimed its sales claims were authentic and would be reported to the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

## Religious job bias claim lost

An unemployed man failed yesterday in his appeal claim that he had been discriminated against when applying for a job with a Middle East company because of his Jewish faith.

The Court of Appeal upheld the rulings of an industrial tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal that there had been no racial discrimination against Mr Peter Simon, aged 33, under the 1976 Race Relations Act.

They said that in dealing with his application for a freight shipping co-ordinator post, Brimham Associates, an employment agency, had treated him in the same way as any other candidate.

Mr Simon, of Avenue Road, north Finchley, London, had refused to answer a question about his religion and they did not know he was Jewish. When he became upset it was explained that if he was Jewish his application may be unsuccessful. He then walked out of the interview.

The court said that although the words may have been discouraging they did not amount to discrimination.

## Falklands air victims fly home today

The bodies of seven British servicemen, killed in a Chinook helicopter crash in the Falklands last month, will be brought home today.

The victims died when the helicopter crashed while flying over open farmland.

Today the coffins will be flown to RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, where an RAF officer will identify the bodies before an inquest is opened and adjourned in Oxford.

An RAF inquiry into the crash has been set up and British experts have flown out to the South Atlantic to help accident investigators.

The accident was the second tragedy involving a Chinook on the islands. Last year three men were killed when a Chinook smashed into the side of a mountain.



Terry Marsh, Britain's new world boxing champion, returning to role of fireman yesterday at Tilbury Docks in Essex, two days after winning the light welterweight title.

## Acas move in dispute at theatre

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

The National Theatre has unilaterally called in the arbitration service, Acas, to resolve a dispute with its technicians over planned job cuts.

The theatre took the unusual step this week after Beta, the technicians' union, said it would resist compulsory redundancies.

The union said it was angry and disappointed by the move, because it felt the negotiation process had not been exhausted.

Both sides are to attend talks with Acas on Wednesday, but Beta said it was not prepared to accept a third-party ruling at this stage.

"We are going on an informal basis, to see whether we can resume direct negotiations with the management," a union spokesman said. There was no immediate threat of industrial action.

The theatre has proposed a package of privatization measures and flexible working practices that could reduce its technical staff of 350 by almost 70, with estimated savings of up to £750,000 a year.

Beta said the management had issued a warning that it was facing a deficit of £500,000. The theatre declined to confirm the figure, but said it was under financial pressure due to successive reductions in government grants.

## Heseltine gains in leadership stakes

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine has taken over as the most popular successor to Mrs Margaret Thatcher as leader of the Conservative Party and is winning backing from supporters of the Liberal-Social Democratic Party Alliance, according to a new poll.

Among Conservative voters he is gaining on Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, a MORI poll in this week's *Economist* has disclosed.

Mr Heseltine, more than a year after his resignation during the Westland affair, appears to be enjoying a comeback.

His parliamentary supporters believe that he has won considerable credit in the country, especially among Conservatives, for his refusal to snipe at the Government.

Mr Heseltine, former Secretary of State for Defence, won the backing of 24 per cent of all voters asked whom they would like to replace Mrs Thatcher. That put him ahead of Mr Tebbit, on 15 per cent, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the

Source: MORI/The Economist

	Total	Con	Lab	All'ce
Heseltine	24	21	25	31
Tebbit	15	28	8	9
Howe	12	14	11	11
Walker	5	3	7	10
Hurd	4	6	3	3
Baker	4	3	4	6
None of these	18	10	24	16
Don't know	18	13	18	3



David and Marcia Deighton with their children (left) facing a rates rise of only £23 in Harrow while in neighbouring Ealing, Mary and Brian Pamment are facing a £193 rise (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

## Council evil and vicious, says MP

Ealing council, which announced the 64.5 per cent rates increase on Thursday night, was described as "evil" in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, speaking in a backbench debate on inner cities, said the "vicious rate increase" would hit the elderly, those on low incomes, and industries.

Mr Greenway said that Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, had recently supported the council's policies. As an Ealing resident, Mr Kinnock would face a £333 rate rise.

To Tory gasps he said the council was spending £12,000 on an anti-apartheid festival, £200,000 on a race equality committee, £200,000 on women's advisers, and £10,000 on the creation of peace parks.

School pupils were being exposed to a campaign of lesbianism and homosexuality.

He said: "A senior Labour



# Doctors call for halt on irradiation of foodstuffs

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the irradiation of foodstuffs could pose long-term health hazards and called on the Government to postpone "for some years" any plans to introduce the process.

Irradiation is used in some countries to extend the shelf life of fruit and vegetables and to kill or reduce the presence of disease-causing organisms in some types of food.

However, a report by the BMA's board of science says that current advice to the Government on the safety of the process "may not sufficiently take account of still less exclude possible long-term medical effects."

The association endorsed the report yesterday and called for a full-scale study of the risks and benefits of the process.

"Such a study is necessary before the process can be confidently accepted in this country," the report said.

The BMA was influenced in its report by scientific studies, one in humans and one in laboratory rats, which indicated that irradiation could cause potentially malignant changes in the blood cells.

The report conflicts with the findings of the Advisory Committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods (ACINF), set up by the Government, which said there was no reason not to proceed with plans to introduce food irradiation.

The committee is receiving submissions from interested parties and advice will then be forwarded to the relevant government departments.

Dr John Dawson, head of the BMA professional division, said yesterday: "The

## Judge attacks rape trial 'system'

By Craig Seton

A man with a previous conviction for rape was told by a judge to "keep your hands off young girls" after a jury had found him not guilty of raping a girl aged 17.

Several members of the jury of seven women and five men at Birmingham Crown Court held their heads in their hands when they realised from remarks made after the verdict that the man had been convicted before.

Judge Mellor, QC, later explained that the jurors should not reproach themselves.

The girl ran from the court sobbing uncontrollably after the jury had brought in its verdict.

The judge later took the unusual step of calling the girl's aunt to the front of the court. He told her: "As far as I am concerned she was entirely innocent."

He said it might be considered unfair that a girl "such as this child" had to face allegations while the man accused of attacking her did not go into the witness box himself.

Judge Mellor returned to the court and explained that he had made his remarks "to mitigate the effects of a system which allows allegations of shameful sexual conduct to be laid against a witness without any evidence at all being offered in support of it."

The judge said: "The jury gave full and careful consideration to the evidence. I wish them to know they should not reproach themselves."

The jury had heard that the girl was still receiving psychiatric treatment.

The young woman had claimed that the man had dragged her into a Sparbrook building site where he put his hands around her throat and his fingers in her eyes before raping her. The man had claimed that the girl had consented to sexual intercourse.



Christopher Collins putting the finishing touches to a drum of the Blues and Royals, one of the regiments to have the most recent battle honour - Falkland Islands 1982.

Mr Collins, from Orpington, Kent is a freelance military and heraldic artist who emblazons almost all the British Army's drums.

## Boy George's heroin suppliers jailed

A couple who conspired to supply heroin to Boy George were each jailed for four years yesterday.

A jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, found Steven Luben, aged 36, and Diane Feiner, aged 35, both of Westbourne Terrace, Paddington, west London, guilty by majority verdicts. Feiner was found not guilty of conspiring to supply cocaine.

In the same case, Anna Katrina Timmaung, aged 28, of Alwyne Road, Islington, north London, has pleaded guilty to two charges of supplying heroin to Boy George, and is to be sentenced on March 16.

The jury of six men and six women took eight hours 21 minutes to reach their 10 to 2 decision on the heroin conspiracy charges.

A bizarre plan to assault Boy George as he left the witness box came to light on the second day of the trial. The scheme was hatched in a corridor a few yards from where the pop singer was giving evidence against Luben and Feiner.

Det Sergeant David Leader, an officer in the case, overheard Feiner's friend, Darrell Thomas, aged 40, talking to his friend, Alan Whittle, outside the court.

Mr Leader said he heard Thomas say about George: "You hold him and I'll hit him". Whittle had allegedly nodded.

Both Thomas and Whittle appeared before Judge Morton the next day, February 11, accused of contempt of court. Thomas, of Ethelbert Road, Balham, south London, was jailed for six weeks. He had denied saying the words. Mr Whittle was acquitted.

Judge Morton ruled before the contempt hearing started that no details of it should be reported until the end of the Luben and Feiner case.

During the case, Mr David Bate, for the prosecution, told the jury that Boy George was only an occasional user of heroin before he became ensnared in a "lucrative connection" of two drug suppliers, and soon was heavily addicted.

Luben and Feiner "fastened on him like leeches", Feiner introduced the pop singer to Luben, who gave Boy George a free sample of heroin to "smoke" in the flat of the Culture Club singer, Helen Terry. "Within a short time, George was phoning them up for more and being charged £50 per half a gram", Mr Bate said.

The "tragic" transformation of Boy George from an active pop performer in Britain and abroad to an addict who became an embarrassment to his friends, was described by witnesses.

Mr Bate said: "By July 1986 George was so heavily addicted that he was receiving neuro-electric therapy. He wore a small battery-operated stimulator and had electrodes attached behind his ears."

Anthony Kevin O'Dowd is to appear before Knightsbridge Crown Court on April 6 on two charges of supplying heroin and one of supplying cocaine to his brother, Boy George, between January 1 and July 9, 1986.

## Portfolio - Gold - Mother looking to a break

A mother expecting her third child will be able to take a well earned holiday after sharing yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000 with two other readers.

Mrs Elizabeth Gaywood, aged 28, is in the middle of moving from north London to Hampshire.

"Moving is a very expensive business but as I'm expecting again I hope there will be enough for a little break before the new one arrives", she said.

Mrs Mary Robinson, aged 48, from Camberley, Surrey, said that her £1,333 share of the Portfolio Gold prize would come in handy for a holiday to Queensland.

The third winner, Mr Graham Rance, aged 36, an interior decorator of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, said he would buy a compact disc player.

Readers who wish to play Portfolio Gold can obtain a card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold  
The Times  
PO Box 40  
Blackburn  
BB1 6AJ

## Ancient skulls found in box

Nine skulls unearthed from tombs in Egypt, and possibly 5,000 years old, have been found in a cardboard box among a jumble of human remains, by Dr Rosalie David, of Manchester University, one of the world's most respected Egyptologists.

## Seventh case of meningitis

A seventh case of meningitis was reported in Lincolnshire yesterday where a boy aged three months has died from the disease.

The latest victim is a young child from the Boston area

## Shake-up in training of nurses

Jill Sherman  
Social Services  
Correspondent

Plans to revolutionise nurse training to avoid a critical nursing shortage were sent out for consultation to all 14 regional health authorities yesterday.

The proposals come from Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, who is concerned that 30,000 nurses leave the health service each year and more than a third of those training leave before they finish.

The average nurse works for the health service for only three or four years and half leave before they are 30.

The plans, known as project 2000, include introducing a three-year common foundation course for all nurses, to replace the existing two levels of training for enrolled and registered nurses.

The extra cost is estimated at £70 million during the peak years of implementation, falling to an extra £40 million a year at the end of the 20-year transition period.

Mr Newton said: "To ensure that the skills of professional staff are used where they are most needed it is essential to have adequate numbers of properly trained support staff."

Mrs Anne Poole, the DHSS chief nursing officer, has prepared a separate working party report examining the training of support workers. It is being sent out for consultation at the same time.

Earlier this year the Government announced the setting up of a £100,000 feasibility study to examine whether the Youth Training Scheme could be used to train nursing auxiliaries.

## £109,000 for man who plunged 80ft

A window cleaner who survived an 80ft fall while working on a nine-storey office building was awarded £109,230 damages for his injuries in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Derek John Potter, aged 28, of First Avenue, Dagenham, Essex, was in a suspended "cradle" at the British Gas Corporation offices in Staines, west London, when the accident happened in 1983.

Mr Peter Bowsher, QC, deputy judge, ruled that Mr Potter's employers, Actual Window Cleaning, had not provided securely supported equipment. The company denied liability.

**Courage praised**

The "remarkable courage" of a grandmother aged 81 who suffered "horrific" injuries in a bus accident was praised by Mr Justice Gagehouse. Mrs Eleanor Abern, a wheelchair-bound widow, was awarded damages and interest totalling £63,782.

Mrs Abern, of Sarum Court, Park House Lane, Reading, Berkshire, had to have her right leg amputated above the knee after the accident in Reading in January last year.

The damages, and costs, were against Reading Borough Council and the bus driver.

**£60,000 for fall**

A motor mechanic whose sex life was affected by an injury at work was awarded £60,360 damages.

Mr Edward Taylor, aged 42, of Delane Road, Deal, Kent, injured his back and neck in a fall into an inspection pit. The award was against Dover District Council.

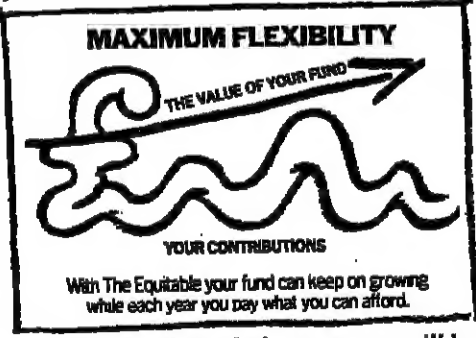
**Headaches for life**

Mr Ronald Cook, a green-

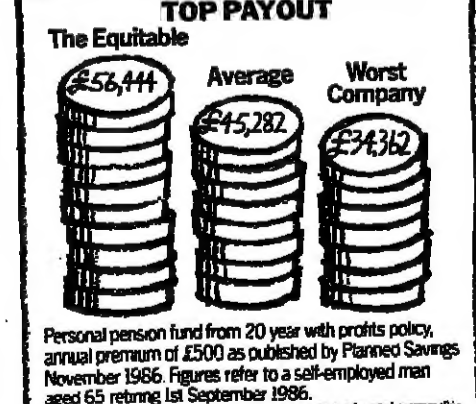
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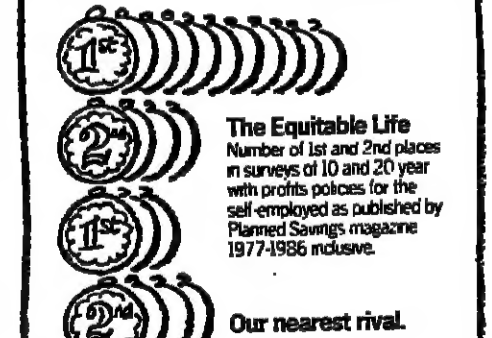
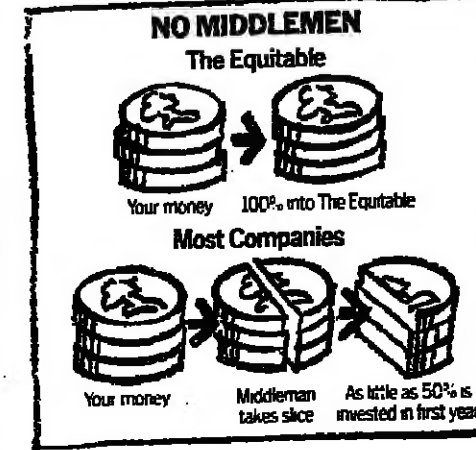
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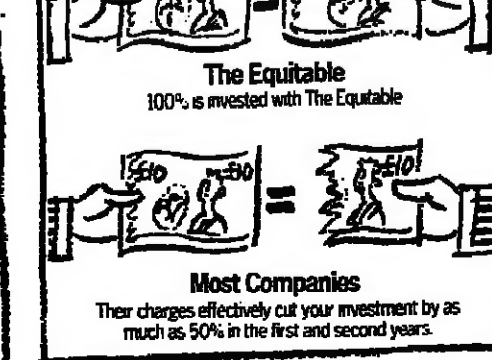
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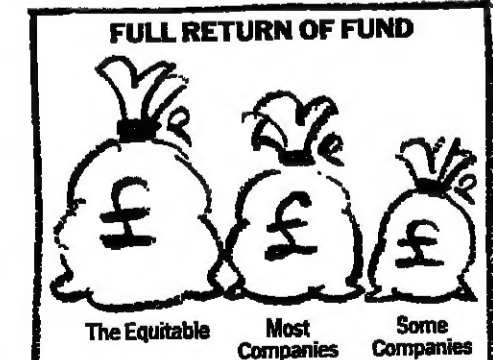
As you might expect, our personal pension plans are available with a wide range of investment options.

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Far Eastern Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Money Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gilt & Fixed Interest Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Situations Fund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fund of Investment Trusts
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## Soviet Union renews pressure over 'Nazis'

By Howard Foster

The Soviet Union has renewed its pressure on the Thatcher Government to extradite alleged Nazi war criminals by claiming that one who lived in Bradford for 40 years personally murdered British prisoners of war.

According to Mr Guennadi Shabannikov, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, one such war criminal arrived in Britain post-1945 and settled in Bradford.

He was Mr Mikhail Sulyma, who allegedly served with Nazi police in the city of Lvov between 1941 and 1944 and participated in the murder of 46,000 Soviet Jews in 1942.

"The Lvov archives contain personal file... with his photo as well as his personal accounts in written form about his participation in massacres in Lvov", Mr Shabannikov said.

Mr Sulyma died last year but yesterday his lawyer, Mr Taras Lysenczuk, said that the allegations were ridiculous.

## Bird lover loses fight to keep eagles

A bird lover yesterday said he may appeal to the European Court of Human Rights after a judge ruled he cannot keep two golden eagles at his home.

Mr Ronald Masterman, aged 45, of Brook Street, Twyford, Berkshire, has kept the birds in a garden aviary for seven years.

Last year he was fined £300 and banned from keeping birds of prey for five years for illegal possession of the eagles under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Yesterday he lost an appeal against the decision at Reading Crown Court and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which brought the case as a private prosecution, said the eagles would be moved to a wildlife park.

Robert Ashcroft, a bird enthusiast, of Fazelekley, Liverpool, was fined £600 with £60 costs by Hull magistrates yesterday for his part in illegally exporting three peregrine falcon eggs.







## WORLD SUMMARY

## Contras got \$32m in private gifts

Washington — The Nicaraguan Contras' main military force received more than \$32 million (£20 million) in cash donations from anonymous sources during the two-year congressional ban on direct US military aid, according to its leader, Señor Adolfo Calero (Christopher Thomas writes).

He said that \$18 million (£11.2 million) of that was used to buy and ship weapons. The cash was handled through six bank accounts in Panama and the Cayman Islands under the corporate names of Alpha Service, Chester Co. and Dataguard International.

"Here's the big money we got," he declared, giving reporters a quick look at detailed financial records of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), which claims to have more than 10,000 fighting men under its command. He said he did not know where the money came from.

## Dissident 'not free' Rhodesia memories

Mr Sergei Khodorovich, aged 46, a leading Soviet dissident, has not been freed despite a Moscow statement five weeks ago, a human rights group said yesterday (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Mr George Miller, the chairman of the Association for a Free Russia, said that Mr Khodorovich's mother had had a telegram from Camp Norilsk, where he has been held, describing him as "practically healthy", a phrase usually implying that a prisoner was ill and still in a camp.

Harare — Charges were withdrawn yesterday against four white separatists for being in possession of a collection of Rhodesian memorabilia considered by Zimbabwean police to be "subversive" (Jan Raath writes).

Colonel Leslie Moody, aged 74, Mr Tommy Hepburn, aged 77, Mr Gerald Maggs, Mrs Peggy Watson and Mrs Sheila Low were held in Bulawayo for 36 hours after a raid on November 18 on the offices of the Pioneers and Early Settlers' Association and the British Legion.

## Russians refuse visas

The Soviet Embassy in London said yesterday that it had refused visas to a group of wives of British MPs because their plan to meet their husbands in Moscow was provocative and an act of direct interference in Soviet domestic matters (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday told a Soviet diplomat that the Government was "disappointed" that Moscow had refused the visas.

The group, which included Mr Hugh Dykes, the Conservative MP for Harrow, had planned to meet Soviet dissidents. In a similar incident two weeks ago three MPs were refused visas after having made plans to hold a ceremony involving dissidents at the British Embassy.

## Pretoria hits back

Ottawa — The South African Ambassador to Canada, Mr Glenn Babb, has found a novel way to hit back at the Canadian Government for its unrelenting attacks on his country's apartheid system — he is to visit an Indian reservation where residents have asked Pretoria for foreign aid (John Best writes).

Mr Babb has accepted an invitation to visit a Manitoba reservation and inspect the conditions under which Peguis Indians live.

## TV man mystery

Bonn — The West German Government yesterday denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of a Soviet television cameraman and his wife and son, who have been missing from their Bonn home since February 28 and are reported to have defected to the West (John England writes).

A newspaper report has claimed that the cameraman, Mr Vladimir Kovnat, might have been a double agent who had been uncovered by the KGB.

## Celebration cancelled



## Political child's play

Cairo (Reuters) — Mrs Samia Mahmoud Taha, who has just had her fourth baby, has found a way to get child-care leave she is standing as a candidate in Egypt's election on April 6.

Candidates have the right to leave their jobs during the month-long campaign, whereas the law does not grant child-care leave to mothers after their third child. So Mrs Taha is standing as an independent purely to beat the ban, al-Ahram newspaper said yesterday, running a photograph of her handing her nomination papers to election officials.

## Smooth Karpov draws

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The fifth game of the Sokolov-Karpov world chess eliminator in Lizaras, Spain, has been drawn. Karpov played the Caro-Kann defence as Black for the third time in this match, equalised easily.

It seemed indeed after a mere ten moves that the general exchange pieces would lead to an early draw. But Karpov probed for 28 more moves in an effort to unsettle his less experienced opponent. His smooth performance emphasized his overall grip on this match, which he leads by three points to two.

White Sokolov; Black Karpov.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Bc5 4 d4 exd4 5 Nxd4 Nf6 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Bc4 d5 8 exd5 Nxd5 9 Nxd5 Bxd5 10 Bb3 Bc6 11 f3 Bb4 12 g4 Bc5 13 h4 Bb4 14 g5 Bc5 15 h5 Bb4 16 g6 Bc5 17 h6 Bb4 18 g7 Bc5 19 h7 Bb4 20 g8 Bc5 21 h8 Bb4 22 g9 Bc5 23 h9 Bb4 24 g10 Bc5 25 h10 Bb4 26 g11 Bc5 27 h11 Bb4 28 g12 Bc5 29 h12 Bb4 30 g13 Bc5 31 h13 Bb4 32 g14 Bc5 33 h14 Bb4 34 g15 Bc5 35 h15 Bb4 36 g16 Bc5 37 h16 Bb4 38 g17 Bc5 39 h17 Bb4 40 g18 Bc5 41 h18 Bb4 42 g19 Bc5 43 h19 Bb4 44 g20 Bc5 45 h20 Bb4 46 g21 Bc5 47 h21 Bb4 48 g22 Bc5 49 h22 Bb4 50 g23 Bc5 51 h23 Bb4 52 g24 Bc5 53 h24 Bb4 54 g25 Bc5 55 h25 Bb4 56 g26 Bc5 57 h26 Bb4 58 g27 Bc5 59 h27 Bb4 60 g28 Bc5 61 h28 Bb4 62 g29 Bc5 63 h29 Bb4 64 g30 Bc5 65 h30 Bb4 66 g31 Bc5 67 h31 Bb4 68 g32 Bc5 69 h32 Bb4 70 g33 Bc5 71 h33 Bb4 72 g34 Bc5 73 h34 Bb4 74 g35 Bc5 75 h35 Bb4 76 g36 Bc5 77 h36 Bb4 78 g37 Bc5 79 h37 Bb4 80 g38 Bc5 81 h38 Bb4 82 g39 Bc5 83 h39 Bb4 84 g40 Bc5 85 h40 Bb4 86 g41 Bc5 87 h41 Bb4 88 g42 Bc5 89 h42 Bb4 90 g43 Bc5 91 h43 Bb4 92 g44 Bc5 93 h44 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Drug trafficker's claim to suffer from brain disorder is dismissed by judge

# Court sentences Briton to death in Malaysia

The Malaysian High Court sentenced Derrick Gregory, aged 38, of Richmond, Surrey, to death yesterday for trafficking in 576 grams (about 17 ounces) of heroin five years ago. Mr Justice Dzaiddin, in pronouncing sentence, said there were no extenuating circumstances to warrant the alternative sentence of life imprisonment.

Gregory, who detailed his involvement in an international drug ring in a television documentary a few months ago, repeated the testimony in his defence this week. But the main aspect of his mitigating plea was his alleged mental illness. Despite a defence expert testifying to this on Gregory's behalf, the judge concluded that there was no evidence of mental illness or brain damage.

"Upon this evidence, it is my finding that you merely suffer from

From M.G.G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

a personality disorder characterized by your immaturity and anti-social behaviour," the judge said.

Gregory becomes the third non-Asian sentenced to death in Malaysia for drug trafficking. Malaysian law presumes that anyone found with 15 or more grams of heroin is a trafficker, for whom the punishment on conviction is death. The other two—Kevin Barlow, a Briton, and Brian Chambers an Australian—were hanged last July.

Malaysia has hanged 42 people for drug trafficking between 1975 and the middle of last year. In the last three months of the year another 10 people were hanged.

Gregory was arrested before the law changed to a mandatory death sentence instead of a discretionary one which allowed the judge to opt for a death sentence or life imprisonment. He looked pale after

the sentencing, but told reporters from the dock that he accepted the verdict.

There is an automatic appeal to the Supreme Court. If that fails, he can appeal to the Pardons Board for his life. The hanging of Barlow and Chambers has removed the initial official reluctance here to hang non-Asians. If the Supreme Court confirms the sentence and the board refuses to commute it, Gregory could be executed in about nine months.

He was arrested at Penang airport by police officers who found the heroin hidden in his underpants and shoes.

Mr R. Rajasingham, Gregory's lawyer, said in his plea of mitigation that Gregory was an idiot and a fool who was not a member of any drug syndicate but rather one who was manipulated by it.



A haggard Derrick Gregory leaving the High Court in Penang yesterday under tight security after being sentenced to death for drug trafficking.

## Acclaimed Janata leader waits for Gandhi to falter

From Michael Hamlyn, Bangalore

All round the country politicians both in the ruling Congress (I) Party and outside it are waiting for Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to stumble. It is their only chance, and they watch for it like pariah kites circling above a garbage dump.

If Mr Gandhi should err, if he should lose the confidence of the people, if he should split the party, then—and only then—will the hopes of hopeful politicians be able to make their move.

Only then could there be a chance of another national party coming to power. Then people might turn to such as Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

A week ago *The Illustrated Weekly*, the national English-language magazine, asked famous people who their favourite politicians were. A few said Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Most said Mr Ramakrishna Hegde.

Mr Hegde became Chief Minister when the party of which he was General Secretary—the Janata Party—unexpectedly became the biggest party in the legislature of the southern state of Karnataka in an anti-Congress wave that swept the south in January 1983.

For two years he held together a ragged coalition of former opposition factions. "It was not easy," he confessed yesterday. Then, in a display of political virtuosity, he made the new Prime Minister look like the political underfoot he really was. Mr Gandhi won in December 1984 the biggest majority any Prime Minister had ever had in Parliament.

Mr Hegde, confident that by this time he had made himself indispensable in Karnataka, announced that the general election result was such a vote of no confidence in the Janata Party that he had to resign.

With state elections called, Mr Gandhi had the dilemma of asking Mr Hegde to form a caretaker government and thus to remain with his hands on the levers of patronage, or installing a minority Congress government to face the obloquy of those who object to the toppling of state governments at the whim of the centre.

Mr Hegde and his Janata Party gained an overall majority at the polls that followed. After two years more in power Mr Hegde acknowledges that he feels good about his popularity.

He said: "I think it is an appreciation for the new trend that we have been able to give to Indian politics, not only in terms of programmes and policies, but in terms of practising certain values. We practise value-based politics."

## India cites border fears

Delhi—The Indian Government said in Parliament yesterday that China had built a helipad at Wandung, in Sundeong Chu valley, where the Chinese had "intruded into Indian territory" last year.

The Chinese have improved also a mule track leading from Wandung towards the border, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, the Minister of State for External



Hegde could be to do as other former opposition stalwarts have done and return to the fold.

"If I was going to join Congress, I would have done so long since," he said. "Mrs Gandhi was very keen that I should join. There was nothing in the Government of India that she did not offer for me."

He believed that for the health of democracy in India, there should be two strong national parties competing for power. "Being in the opposition today, if I do anything which would further weaken the already weak opposition I would be committing a betrayal of the cause for democracy."

In any case, Mr Hegde sees it thus: "It was not easy. I think I could handle this successfully, because... I do not know whether you would believe... But it is because I was not terribly interested in power. That has perhaps enhanced my prestige in the eyes of the people here in Karnataka."

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Affairs, said. India and China, which have held seven rounds of talks in the last four years to find a solution to their border dispute, appear to have reached a dead end.

However, the two countries, which went to war in October 1962 on the border dispute, have affirmed that they will find a peaceful solution.

"These people are the ones with the money, the strength and the enterprise to get here by themselves. What state will the weaker ones be in when they get here?" one government official said.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees is planning to launch a programme to repatriate some 70,000 official refugees, though the large numbers who fled from the Angkor district to Malawi recently may bring the total to 100,000.

As for the Witnesses, they are happy to be back in Mozambique, but want to return home to their original homes in Maputo and Gaza provinces. Hard-pressed local officials are anxious that they should.

"The Government has dropped its opposition to religion now," said one official.

## Gorbachov's war on graft

### Moscow spotlight on bribe-takers

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In an intensification of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's sweeping anti-corruption drive, the official Soviet media have begun printing in more lurid detail than before profiles of those involved in some of the most serious recent cases of bribery and corruption.

Yesterday the main economic newspaper, *Sovetskaya Industriya*, disclosed that Mr Yevgeny Kondratov, the former Light Industry Minister in the Russian Federation—the largest of the 15 Soviet republics—had been sentenced to 12 years in a labour camp as a result of his corrupt practices over a period of seven years.

To illustrate how bribe-taking, patronage, servility, a mercenary spirit and other ills took root during his time in office from late 1974, the paper quoted examples of the lavish lifestyle he had lived, showered with gifts which included lobsters and fur hats, as well as elaborately organized fishing and hunting trips.

It described how Mr Kondratov, now aged 63, had responded to the bribes, which he and a network of associates were taking in order to alter the state production plan and to conceal the fact that some enterprises were repeatedly failing to fulfil the targets set for them.

"Bribery as a crime has existed since prehistoric times," the paper said. "Nowadays the influence of bribery is more powerful. Thanks to bribe-takers, the bribers influenced the process of production and control."

The strength of the language and the detail included was seen in diplomatic circles as evidence of the problem now facing Mr Gorbachov in his nationwide clean-up campaign. In many aspects of Soviet business and personal life, a bribe is often the only way to secure service.

"In the mirror of statistics, a typical bribe-taker looks very respectable," *Sovetskaya Industriya* said. "The age is about 40, the education secondary, specialized or high; a good family, with children and no previous criminal record."

The article went on to deal with the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, one of the most corrupt in the Soviet Union, where nationalist rioting flared last December after the long-serving Communist Party chief, Mr Dinnukhamed Kunayev, was replaced by a native-born Russian, Mr Gennady Kolbin.

It revealed that, under the network of corruption which flourished there, one third of the republic's food was available only in special shops for the elite.

More than 1.5 million roubles (£1.5 million) was spent equipping special summer houses and hunting lodges for the local municipal and state enterprise bosses. Only one fifth of new flats were allocated in the proper way, the rest were all distributed through "special channels".

Earlier, the Moscow evening newspaper, *Izvestia*, reported that the Government had instructed that the complex of opulent holiday homes, luxury hotels, lodges and hunting lodges reserved for the elite—and paid for out of municipal funds—were all to be forfeited and given instead to youth organizations to run as kindergartens and summer camps.

It was discovered that at the special hotels no fees had been paid by the guests for 20 years. The annual upkeep of one estate, including a private cinema, buffet-hall, two large residences, four cottages and nine summer houses, was one million roubles which came directly from the municipal budget.

## Russians blamed for fate of Israeli leukaemia patient

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Two and a half months ago, Mr Mikhail Shirman was given a bone marrow transplant by his sister in an operation here. Doctors said at the time that it was a perfect match and that in normal circumstances there was every chance he would be cured of his leukaemia.

But the circumstances were not normal and on Thursday night Mr Shirman died. He had had to wait nearly a year for the operation because his sister, the only possible donor, was living in the Soviet Union and could not obtain an exit visa with her husband.

Mr Shirman, who came to Israel seven years ago, spent the time after his leukaemia

was diagnosed as one of the most active campaigners for the release of Soviet Jewry. He lobbied the Reykjavik summit last October and travelled widely demonstrating for the cause in the United States.

Among those who joined his campaign was Dr Robert Gale, the American bone marrow specialist, who went to Russia to help victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster last May.

Mr Shirman's sister, Mrs Inessa Fleurova, was eventually granted an exit visa with her husband last autumn and tests showed that she was an ideal donor. The operation at first seemed successful, but Mr Shirman had grown progressively weaker over the past month and his doctors blamed the fact that the transplant was made far too late.

Mr Yacov Tzur, Israel's Absorption Minister, sent a message of sympathy to the family saying "the tragedy gives expression to the desperate plight of Soviet Jewry".

TEL AVIV: Professor Alain Berberis of the Kaplan Hospital here said yesterday that there was a good chance Mr Shirman would still be alive had his sister been allowed to emigrate sooner.

"If we had been able to perform the transplant by April last year, statistics indicate a 50 per cent probability of recovery."



Mr Shirman welcoming his sister, Mrs Inessa Fleurova, at Israel's Ben Gurion airport last October, after her 11-month struggle to leave the Soviet Union to donate bone marrow.

## Hopes rise at Afghan talks on pull-out

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A compromise on the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is coming into view at the proximity talks here between Afghan and Pakistani delegations, headed by their respective foreign ministers, communicating through Senior Diego Cordovez, the UN intermediary.

Simultaneously, Mr Sebatulla Mojedidi, representing the alliance of Mujahidin—the seven main resistance bodies—has indicated the movement's readiness to consider a settlement formula as evolved in the UN-sponsored negotiations and parallel contacts between Islamabad, Washington, Moscow and Kabul.

Pointing out that agreement on an interim government for Afghanistan, pending elections, was reached at a Mujahidin gathering in Peshawar last month, he said this could include "neutral" personalities.

"If Pakistan can come to a conclusion with the Russians on their unconditional withdrawal from Afghanistan over a short time, if the right of self-determination can be given to the people and if principles contained in UN resolutions are observed, this could be acceptable," Mr Mojedidi added.

In the Cordovez negotiations, the difference on the withdrawal timetable between the Kabul Government and the Pakistanis—originally four years as against four months—is now, formally, 22 months and perhaps six months.

A further communication from Kabul, submitted here on Thursday, specifies a further reduction. This indicates the prospect of an eventual compromise of a year or thereabouts. The present round of talks is scheduled to end next week.

## Sect refugees trek back to Mozambique camps

From Paul Valley, Tete

It took David Mchave, aged three, just three hours to die of what his father called "the diarrhoea disease" in a camp in Malawi for refugees who have fled there to escape the war in Mozambique.

"Many children died," said Mr Ernesto Mchave with the quiet finality which comes from deep resignation.

To him, as to the several hundred other Jehovah's Witnesses who have recently made the journey from Malawi to camps in Mozambique, the past few years must have seemed like a biblical tribulation to accord with their religion's apocalyptic view of the world.

His group began its forced exodus from their homes in the south in 1975 when, on independence, the Marxist-Leninist Frelimo Government cracked down on religion.

The Witnesses, who were considered a subversive sect because their theology did not

encompass the notion of the state, were banished to "re-education camps" in the north. Many are in the Milange district of Zambezia Province.

Some camps were harsh. "Four of my children died there," Mrs Salmena Mala, another member of the sect, said.

But others were simply remote settlements where they were left alone. "It was a good life. We grew rice, maize, maize and bananas," Mrs

Anne Marie Chirinda said.

Four months ago, when Milange fell to the South African-backed rebels of the Mozambican National Resistance, several thousand members of the sect, along with tens of thousands of other refugees, fled to Malawi.

"The camps there were very bad. They were flooded and many children died every day. In the camp at Chingara there were 7,000 people and three children died every day."

He confirmed that Tan-

zania and Zimbabwean troops were assisting the Mozambique Army, but declined to give numbers or to confirm that Cuban troops were also in the country.

Mozambique had documentary evidence that the MNR was not only funded but directed and co-ordinated from Pretoria. "We are facing terrorism carried out by a state as a policy," he said.

He appealed to Western

governments not to confine their help to economic aid but also to take sides on the political issue.

Renewing Mozambique's plea for humanitarian aid, he said: "The scale is so large that if help does not come millions of people can die."

Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund have launched a joint £4.5 million appeal. The address is PO Box 999, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

These early arrivals are causing great concern to the

governments of the region, which are happy to be back in Mozambique, but want to return home to their original homes in Maputo and Gaza provinces. Hard-pressed local officials are anxious that they should.

"The Government has dropped its opposition to religion now," said one official.

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## Kenya urged to sue Amnesty

From Alastair Matheson, Nairobi

The Kenyan Government has been called on to take Amnesty International to court for organizing and funding a meeting alleged to have been aimed at plotting against President arap Moi's Administration.

Speaking in the National Assembly here, Mr John Michuki, the Deputy Minister for Finance, suggested that the human rights body should be sued for sponsoring such a meeting. Although he did not identify the gathering, it is believed he was referring to the recent launching of the opposition Kenya party at the Africa Centre, in London.

Mr Yusuf Hassan, who has claimed to be one of the leaders of the Ukenya party, has, meanwhile, come in for much criticism in the Kenyan Assembly, especially by MPs from the North-Eastern Province, inhabited mainly by ethnic Somalis.

Mr Ahmed Ogle, a Deputy Minister for Water Development, has denied that Mr Hassan is a Kenyan citizen, claiming that he was born in Tanzania and travelled to Britain on a Ugandan passport.

Insisting that the people of Kenya's North-Eastern Province were supporters of the

ruling Kanu party, he said the province as a whole did not support "clandestine liberation movements, such as Ukenya, or Mwakenya".

Lawyers in Nairobi are now seriously concerned over the disappearance of one of their colleagues, Mr Karau Kuria, who was taken into custody at the end of last month.

Mr Kuria, who was educated at Oxford, has in the past defended a number of controversial Kenyan politicians.

An application for an order of habeas corpus has been filed.

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THE TIMES

Nazi hunter  
identification  
war criminals

Shultz optimistic  
trade and reform

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## Nazi hunter appeals for identification of alleged war criminals in Britain

From Philip Jacobson, Vienna

In his cramped, book-lined office a stone's throw from the Danube, Mr Simon Wiesenthal opens a buff-coloured file and begins to explain why the British Government should not — cannot — allow half a dozen men alleged to be Baltic war criminals to continue living in Britain undisturbed.

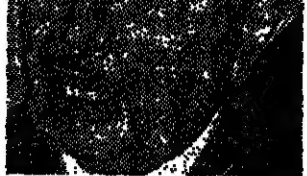
"This is the death certificate for Ain Mere, who commanded the concentration camps in Estonia. There was ample proof of the terrible things he did, of all the innocent young lives he destroyed. But look here, he passed away in 1969, of natural causes in Leicester at the age of 65, in the bosom of his family."

"Do you really believe such a man had the right to die in peace?"

For Mr Wiesenthal, the original and tireless force behind the Nazi-hunting Documentation Centre, the Home Office's decision to reopen files on how up to 17 East Europeans suspected of war crimes originally came to Britain should only be the first step in ensuring that the guilty are brought to justice.

"They should be named immediately, so their neighbours understand who they are, yes and their own children, too. Please don't tell me that they are now old and sick and that it all happened long ago and far away."

"And don't ask me what punishing them now would achieve, because we who survived the camps know better than anyone that their crimes are utterly beyond any punishment. But it is only by tracking



Mr Wiesenthal pledges his support to Home Office.

such people down to the ends of the Earth that we can warn the mass murderers of tomorrow that they will never be forgotten, they will never be completely safe."

According to Mr Wiesenthal, a burly, soft-spoken man who looks much younger than 78, those now under investigation in Britain would almost certainly have arrived in the same way as Ain Mere.

"When the Nazis invaded the Baltic countries and the Ukraine, they were besieged thousands of them were able to mingle with the great tide of displaced people in Europe; fearful of returning home, they had turned to the Red Cross for help in starting new lives elsewhere. Mr Wiesenthal's records show that large numbers (among them the remnants of the Ukrainian SS unit) came to Britain."

"One thing your Home Office can surely discover is how known Nazi collaborators like Ain Mere originally described themselves in their entry applications," Mr Wiesenthal observed, the blood suddenly rushing to his face.

"Those still living must explain their activities in the Baltic states at a time when many, many Jews were being killed in the streets every day. Believe me, the Centre will make available everything we have, including a dossier on 8,000 Ukrainians who certainly passed through Britain, which recently came into our hands."

Politely but firmly, Mr Wiesenthal begged to differ with a leading article in *The Times* this week which spoke of "a natural desire for vengeance on evildoers". His life's work had nothing to do with revenge, he insisted.

Between them, he and his wife had lost 89 members of their families to the Nazis. "If it was just hatred that motivates me, I'd have gone mad years ago. But the world must not be allowed to forget that the catastrophe which overtook Europe's Jews could happen again to another innocent minority."

## Siege drama on the streets of New York



A police officer shields a woman and her child as a gunman holding four hostages opens fire from an apartment building during a two-day siege in New York's East Harlem district.

## Student in jeans theft is executed

Moscow (Reuters) — A student aged 25 has been shot by firing squad in Georgia after he had been convicted of stealing a pair of jeans, the republic's Communist Party newspaper said.

## Blackmail jail

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A Hong Kong man aged 26 was jailed for five years yesterday for trying to blackmail a local company after cases of soft drinks were found laced with rat poison.

## Fire protest

Seoul (AFP) — A former university student aged 25 is in a critical condition after setting himself alight with petrol here in an anti-government protest.

## Animals plea

Peking (AFP) — China's Ministry of Forestry has launched an urgent appeal for an end to the slaughter of rare animals and warned that those involved in killing or exporting protected species would be penalized.

## New Primate

Budapest (AP) — The Pope has named Archbishop Laszlo Paskai, aged 59, as Hungary's Roman Catholic Primate.

## 2.4m jobless

Bonn — The total unemployed in West Germany dropped last month by 9,358 to 2,487,818, 10 per cent of the workforce, the Federal Labour Office reported.

## Correction

An Associated Press report from Kampala on January 8 wrongly stated that 12 Bahais had been arrested on suspicion of plotting against the Uganda Government. Police did not, in fact, implicate any members of the faith.



New York (AP) — A man on parole believed to be under the influence of cocaine surrendered to police yesterday after holding a family hostage for nearly 30 hours, during which he fired at least 27 shots into the streets of the East Harlem district of New York.

Mr Ismael "John" Igartua (seen left being taken into custody), aged 25, was later rushed away in handcuffs by police, accompanied by a lawyer, from the apartment building where the drama had unfolded.

During the siege he fired at least 27 shots, police said. Police added that they did not return fire, relying instead on negotiators maintaining continuous contact with Igartua and wearing him down.

Several times the gunman seemed to threaten the four hostages, and at one point he held a child at gunpoint at a window. He had also repeatedly demanded baking soda, an ingredient needed to make the potent cocaine derivative known as "crack", but the police refused.

The incident "began with a drug deal gone bad", said the chief of the Police Department, Mr Robert Johnston. The police said that they believed Igartua used drugs during the siege.

## Mother Teresa target of swindle

Calcutta (AFP) — Indian police say they are on the verge of cracking an international racket that has stolen at least \$150,000 (£93,750) from Mother Teresa, with the funds being laundered in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Mother Teresa, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work among the destitute and diseased, first realized late in 1983 that money sent to her Missionaries of Charity did not always arrive.

Police said she alerted them after a US donor asked for a receipt for a donation which the charity had never received. The Missionaries of Charity devote their lives to helping the dying and hungry in Calcutta's worst slums.

But a gang of well-organized thieves recognized an easy prey and began intercepting money meant for the Missionaries of Charity at Calcutta airport. Indian police say that the total sum already stolen could be much larger than the amount they have traced.

On March 16 two Bangladeshi businessmen, Mr Ikramul Haque, aged 41, and Mr Ahmed Shamsi, aged 32, are to appear in a Singapore court on 30 charges of helping to dispose of stolen cheques worth \$63,400 (£39,600) between November 1982 and August 1984.

The pair were arrested in February after two Calcutta detectives went to Singapore to investigate an import-export company called Amiar Brothers Private Ltd., said to be owned by an Indian emigrant to Bangladesh.

But the identity of the racket's mastermind remains unconfirmed.

The Hong Kong connection is understood to work on the same system. However, Hong Kong's banking laws have prevented Indian detectives from seeing clients' accounts, police said, but they predicted both gangs would be broken up in the next few months.

The Indian authorities announced yesterday that two special postal officers have been appointed in Delhi and Bombay to sort out mail for Mother Teresa and send it east to Calcutta by special courier.

## Shultz optimistic on Japan trade and reforms in Seoul

Tokyo (Reuters) — Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, pressed South Korea yesterday to find a compromise to its constitutional reform battle and urged Japan to cut its big trade surplus with the United States, voicing some optimism on both counts.

Visiting Seoul after a six-day trip to China, Mr Shultz urged President Chun Doo Hwan to seize the chance to give South Korea its first peaceful transition of power.

Mr Shultz said that he was now convinced that would happen next February, when President Chun has pledged to step down.

Mr Shultz said he had been reassured by the President's commitment to a dialogue with an Opposition pressing for constitutional changes which will allow the direct election of Mr Chun's successor, a move he is fighting.

"The US, as an ally and friend, supports the aspirations of all Koreans for continuing political development, respect for basic human rights and free and fair elections," he said.

Flying on to Tokyo for talks with Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, Mr Shultz said "both sides were quite frank in acknowledging that the persistent trade imbalance (between the United States and Japan) threatens the well-being of the world economy."

"We agreed we urgently needed to redouble our efforts to find solutions to this problem, which lies on both sides of the Pacific," he said of Japan's trade surplus, which last year reached nearly \$50 billion (£30.5 billion) with the US.

"I think both of us agreed on

## Pretoria still forcing blacks to resettle

From Michael Horisby Johannesburg

A total of 64,180 blacks were uprooted and resettled in South Africa in 1986, Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, said in a written reply to a parliamentary question.

At least 21,973 more blacks in seven townships or communities, six of them in Transvaal and one in the Cape, are in the process of being resettled. Further removals, Mr Heunis said, will be undertaken on merit and in line with the Government's policy of "orderly urbanization".

Mr Heunis's disclosures confirm that the social engineering required by apartheid, which has led to the relocation of an estimated three million blacks in the last 25 years, is still grinding forward.

The Government pledged in February 1985 that all forced removals would be stopped and now contends that blacks are moved only after they have consented. This, however, is not the impression of independent South African monitoring groups.

Pretoria's idea of "consultation" usually involves talking to a few cooperative black councillors or leaders appointed by the Government who are offered financial inducements to move and are

then held to have spoken for the rest of their communities. In addition, the jailing of political activists under the state of emergency in force since last June has weakened the ability of black communities to resist resettlement.

Mr Heunis, perhaps unwittingly, offered a fleeting glimpse of the iron fist in the velvet glove in a reference to the 10,000 blacks at the Oukaisie black township outside Brits, north-west of Pretoria, who the Government wants to move to a new settlement on the border of the Bophuthatswana homeland.

Conceding that there might be "a few" who will not move voluntarily, Mr Heunis said: "If this turns out to be the

case, it will be to their advantage to force them to relocate. It will not be feasible to upgrade Oukaisie for the sake of a few persons."

The Government contends that Oukaisie is a slum, and that redevelopment on the same site would be too costly. The real motive for razing it, however, is that the land is wanted for an expanding white suburb of Brits.

Mr Heunis's suggestion that only "a few" may refuse to move voluntarily will come as a surprise to anyone who has visited Oukaisie and talked to its inhabitants. The remaining 10,000 (5,000 others have been persuaded to leave) are against removal and signed petitions saying so.

## Ghana celebrations marred by famine

Abidjan (AP) — Troops and Ghanaian women carrying yams on their heads paraded through Independence Square in Accra yesterday to mark Ghana's 30th anniversary of Ghana's independence from Britain.

Ghana Radio, monitored in Abidjan, carried live coverage of the ceremony.

Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Ghana's leader, called in a spirited address for a new sense of responsibility. "Thirty years ago you and I breathed in the air of freedom, but did that sweet air of freedom ever give you the freedom of food or good health?" he said. "We still face the humiliation of those dying in the hundreds of thousands from famine today."

Ghana was the first European colony to achieve independence. It was blessed with a strong agricultural base, and possessed large deposits of gold, diamonds and other exportable commodities. But its cocoa industry, once the world's largest, declined disastrously when put under government control. Other exports also dropped and the country has been forced to accept repeated devaluations of its currency, the cedi.

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SILVER FOX JACKETS (FULL LENGTH)	£285	£699	£299
MINK COATS (FULL LENGTH)	£285	£799	£375
SILVER FOX COATS (FULL LENGTH)	£285	£995	£499
SAGA BLUE FOX COATS (W LENGTH)	£285	£1495	£695
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\*To Johannesburg. Small supplement for single room and Durban and Cape Town.



# Oxford's quaint pithead ballot

Like the Boat Race, the Oxford chancery race appeals to the sporting instincts of a wider public. Yet in one sense it is an even more parochial event. The Boat Race at least takes place on the Thames, rather than on the Cam or Isis, but those of us entitled to vote next week will have to travel to Oxford to do so.

In these days when postal ballots are all the rage, Oxford University will be electing its new chancellor by a kind of pithead ballot, though one in which the vast majority of those qualified to vote do not, as it were, work in the pit. Moreover, in normal pithead ballots voters are not obliged to put on fancy dress in order to be allowed to take part in the ritual. At Oxford, we shall have to equip ourselves with gowns before entering the Convocation Room to record our votes.

Inevitably, only a small percentage — probably between 10 and 15 per cent — of the 40,000 Oxford MAs who have the right to vote will actually turn up, and a high proportion of them will be either Oxford dons or people who happen to live in the neighbourhood. The system acts as a strong, and in many cases prohibitive, deterrent

to participation by members of Oxford's graduate diaspora, which covers the whole country and, indeed, every continent.

The limitation of the franchise to MAs involves a small but irritating financial deterrent as well — over and above the considerable cost of travelling to Oxford — since graduates have to pay a sum varying (according to college) from £9 to £25 for a master's degree.

In the old days when Oxford graduates elected two MPs, before the university parliamentary franchise was abolished in 1948, BAs were entitled to vote. More to the point, those elections were carried out by postal ballot, so the logistical deterrent did not apply. Why, then, is the university chancellor elected on such a restricted and, in effect, gerrymandered franchise?

When I suggested to an eminent Oxford professor that there should be a postal ballot for the chancellorship, his reaction surprised me. "Good God not! At that rate we'd be getting Nelson Mandela!" Of all possible reasons for opposing the idea, I can imagine none more remote from reality.

## John Grigg asks why MAs cannot vote by post for their chancellor

The Oxford graduate body has never been noted for its radicalism. If Roy Jenkins is elected next week, he will be only the second non-Conservative to win the post since the party system as we know it came into existence in the early 19th century.

The only non-Conservative chancellor to date has been Lord Grey of Fallodon (1928-33), who, though a Liberal, had two redeeming qualities in the eyes of Oxford graduates — then, it must be said, more prevalently conservative in outlook than they are today. As a landed gentleman and sportsman, no Tory could excel him; and, far from being a meritocratic swot like Asquith, he had been sent down from the university for gross idleness.

Roy Jenkins lacks those advan-

tages, but can hardly be described as a revolutionary.

It is to be supposed that Oxford graduates become more radical the further they are removed from Oxford, so that a postal ballot would make the election of a candidate such as Nelson Mandela more likely? Surely not. And are they a more radical lot than the graduates of London University, who elected a new chancellor — by postal ballot — in 1981?

In that contest Nelson Mandela was, as it happens, a candidate. The others were Jack Jones and Princess Anne, and the result, on a roughly 50 per cent poll, was Princess Anne, 23,951; Mr Jones, 10,507; Mr Mandela, 7,199.

A slightly more plausible argument against changing the Oxford system is that a postal ballot would be complicated and costly. But if London University, with a larger graduate body, can both manage it and afford it, why should Oxford be incapable?

Another argument is that the list of graduates has not been kept up to date and would be hard, now, to produce in a comprehensive form. But this, too, is a rather lame excuse. Whenever they need to

appeal to us for money, our names and addresses seem to be readily available.

Perhaps we should be thankful that "democracy" has survived at Oxford even to such a limited extent, and the reason that it has may well have something to do with the last chancellorship election. In 1960 the candidate defeated by Harold Macmillan (as he then was) was Lord Franks, who soon afterwards had the task of recommending changes to make the university more modern and, it was hoped, more efficient.

As a result, the graduate body (Convocation) was deprived of its residual power to decide issues for which no two-thirds majority had been obtained in the assembly of dons (Congregation). Yet the power to elect the chancellor — and, incidentally, the professor of poetry — was not taken away, and it seems possible that Lord Franks may have felt uncomfortable about recommending its abolition, fearing that he might be suspected of vindictiveness against a system that had denied him the chancellorship.

By such small human factors the course of events is often determined.

Henry Stanhope

## Dear old days of private L-tests

The government is said to be considering the privatization of the driving test, one objective being that it should enable more people to pass.

I have long felt that what this country really needs is more cars on the road, so eventually, in the manner of the Cairo rush-hour, the motorist will be able to move. This should reduce the accident rate no less effectively than the alternative once favoured by the Greater London Council, which was to have no cars at all (a fate which, in the end, more or less overtook the Greater London Council itself).

As those who have driven in Cairo will know, the corollary does not necessarily follow, but at least one can feel they are getting there.

The greatest scepticism is likely to be felt in those more rural parts of Britain, where the test has been privatized for years.

Speaking as one who passed his own examination on half-closing day in an age when the Highway Code advised motorists on the appropriate hand signals when passing a horse-drawn vehicle (and when a zebra was nothing more dangerous than a species of wild animal found in Africa) I have some experience which the government could well find very useful.

In those days one's success in the driving test depended largely upon upon which town one lived in or partly on which chapel one went to.

There was a time I recall when the town in which I lived in rural Wales was more popular than its neighbour 15 miles away for those who were learning to drive because it had no traffic lights, thus saving the man-on-a-Massey-Harris from a whole new raft of learning. People flocked there to stay in the "season" to take their test, much as they journeyed to Greta Green to get married.

I know of one town where, or so it was said, all Congregationalists passed and Wesleyans failed, reflecting the sympathies of the Almighty — by whom, of course, I mean the driving-test examiner or the man who had actually taught them.

In another, the Baptist minister would always lend a helping hand by sitting beside a member of his congregation as he or she grimly negotiated the learning curve, thereby fulfilling the irritating demand by the government of the

day that a qualified driver should do so. The Baptist minister knew no more about driving than Adam (about whom, no doubt, he knew plenty). But he was a conscientious pastor who never first said "no".

In the years immediately following the introduction of the driving test, when rationing was still practised for certain necessities of life, the rural community was not above offering firm butter or fresh eggs in an attempt to assure that whatever might occur on the fateful morning, the examiner might be in a benevolent mood.

The results of these early experiments with privatization will also be of interest to the Ministry of Transport. One farmer of my personal acquaintance was so accustomed to giving traffic signals by hand, if at all, that he treated the new-fangled illuminated arms which theatrically clicked in and out on either side of his old Morris 8 with well-justified contempt.

"You've got your right indicator out, Mr Williams," said an anxious passenger one day, raising his voice to combat incipient deafness.

"Oh, never mind," said the farmer. "I'll be turning right sooner or later."

Then there was the blacksmith who could not reverse. He had drawn up ways of getting round this difficulty. One day he drove 15 miles into the nearest town and then round its periphery — to get back from one end of his farm to the other.

On the other hand, he never had an accident. Nor, as far as I remember, did any others of those who, in the early days of motor-ing-by-merit, successfully bucked the system. The reason for this was that they knew their limitations — and the rest of us knew them too.

My grandfather certainly knew his. His personal prescription for happy motoring along the Anglo-Welsh border was never to stray from the telegraph poles — which represented, he felt, a tenuous link to the safety he had left behind at home.

Now if that is the kind of life that the government would like us to return to, the sooner the better, I say. There are, as I have suggested, certain parts of the world where they have never moved away from it.

Peter Brimelow

## Let me tell you about real cold

New York

"Come Audition for Your Part in L.A. Law-Enforcement." In this week of blustery wind and snow flurries, the cunning Los Angeles County sheriff's department set up a recruiting booth outside the mid-Manhattan College of Criminal Justice, instantly surrounded by New York policemen and cadets, one of the recruiters said he'd planned to assist his pitch by wearing the official Los Angeles police uniform for beach-patrols: sneakers, shorts and T-shirts. But it was too cold: 45 degrees Fahrenheit on a day when the temperature back in his home town of Hollywood was comfortably over 80.

Americans generally do not discuss their weather with the learned scrupulousness of the British. It lacks the necessary nuance. Summer is hot and winter is cold. And at either season, when the clouds break, the sky is brilliantly blue. You never see the multiple layers of muck and mist I remember as a child in England, particularly on school holidays.

But this year New Yorkers have begun to complain about winter. They think it's been unusually cold — by which they mean temperatures down to 20, with three or four heavy snowstorms. You call that cold? I say, lapsing into local argot, that's not cold! Cold is when — and then I launch into my favourite anecdotes about the years I spent living in Canada.

The New Yorkers stare blankly. Totally absorbed in their volcanic city, they all tend to take it for granted that everywhere beyond the Hudson is overrun by dragons — boring dragons. And they've always assumed that Canada is populated by Eskimos anyway.

But I persist, because the subject fascinates me. For anyone reared in a temperate climate, there is a certain thrill to be savoured when the morning radio announces in the prairie city of Winnipeg, say, cheerily that the day's high temperature will be 15 F below zero and the low will be 45 below zero. Particularly when the rising sun is blazing across the city outside and the columns of steam from central heating systems, rising unnaturally vertical in the still air, have turned into pure gold.

You can tell when it's really cold, below zero, because your face actually hurts: You have to wear mittens, not gloves, because each finger can no longer generate enough heat to defend its individual tube, and begins to feel as if it is being crushed in a vice. Your toes feel the same unless you wear boots or galumphing overshoes. Every parking lot has electrical sockets into which you have to plug your car's block heater to protect the engine. Even so, you hear the metal singing and chirping as you drive off, and the tyres feel oddly lumpy.

Canadians on the prairies have adapted to these conditions. The Canadian Football League, playing a version of the interminable American game, holds matches until Christmas, and spectators stand watching in the open air — carrying open hip flasks, admittedly. Young women at dances emerge like butterflies from immense shapeless chrysalises of overcoats and scarves, leaving the latter tucked efficiently through the sleeves of the former, and battalions of boots clustering at the door like shy guests.

But if you watch closely, you see that winter is never taken lightly. No native will go outside even for a moment without coat, hat and mittens. Additionally, they have a marked tendency to dress by the date even if the weather is unseasonably mild, a peculiarity reported also by travellers in Russia. Just as only an inexperienced lion will chance the slightest scratch while making a kill, only immigrants run risks with the Canadian winter. There's simply too much of it to make the odds attractive.

This may sound unpleasant. And it is in fact quite dangerous: drunks die every winter in Winnipeg because they stop for a snooze and freeze to the pavement; every driver carries blankets and shovels in case a breakdown transforms what would be a summer picnic into a pleasant jaunt into an arctic survival struggle.

Curiously, however, I find I miss Canada's winter much more than the gentle seasons of England. In New York, I feel distinctly frustrated when an inch or so of snow arrives and then melts away — Winnipeg temperatures are so reliable that outdoor ice-sculpting competitions are scheduled every year. Under such conditions, snow won't go anywhere unless the authorities have it physically removed. This can be a big job: St John's in Newfoundland has had 12 feet of snow in the last two weeks alone.

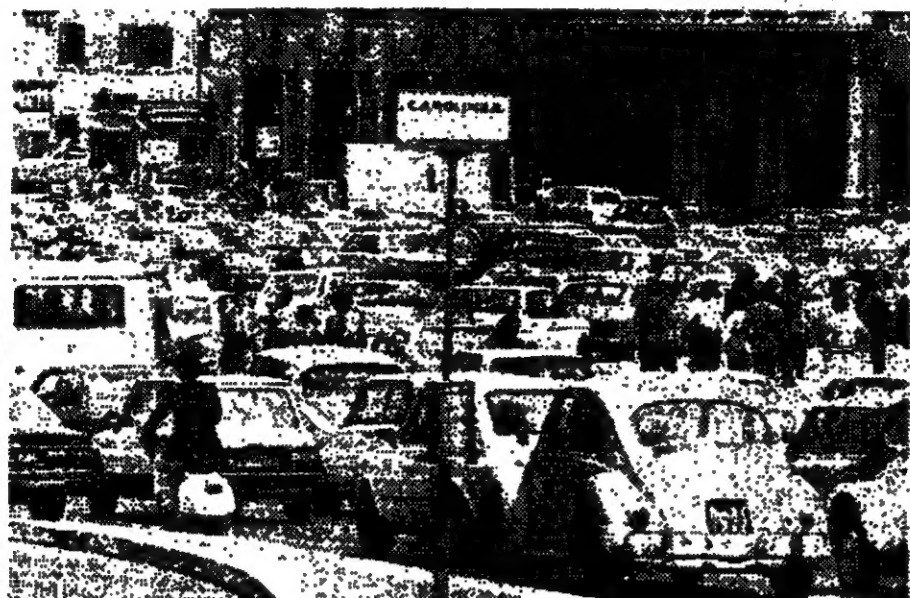
Part of the reason for my nostalgia is aesthetic. A great city utterly silenced by heavy snow is an unforgettable spectacle. It also looks clean, something that in New York will be accomplished otherwise only by a second Flood. And perhaps also winter appealed to that instinct for the dramatic that causes young men to leave home in the first place.

My brother, who arrived in New York after a few years in America's Deep South, does not sympathize. He thinks the winters here are savage. On the other hand, he wears three-piece suits right through New York's horrible steam-bath summers. His excuse is some irritating rignarole about what real heat is like.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* magazine.

## Roger Boyes on the growing conflict in Italy between car-lovers and the ancient heritage

# The modern perils of Pompeii



The evocative emptiness of the ancient streets of Pompeii... and the Italian motorized turmoil that art-lovers and archaeologists are trying to keep at bay

Trapped by the sulphurous fumes of Vesuvius, the inhabitants of ancient Pompeii can still be viewed frozen in tragic postures of panic: a dog in its death-throes, a girl trying to cover her mouth with her gown, a slave sent back for something forgotten. Interrupted life, AD 79, the year of the great Vesuvius eruption, is a banal collection — of still-intact loaves, of a luncheon of eggs, nuts and lentils never eaten.

In modern Pompeii, rarely visited by tourists, the air is full of unpleasant man-made fumes — carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and all the other things emitted by road traffic. Sweating policemen shout abuse, cars overwhelm and pollute the streets. Open-air cafes, tentatively working again as spring approaches, display half-eaten meals, untouched coffee-cups. Interrupted life, AD 1987.

Now the modern Pompeii is proposing to add to the destruction of the ancient. City officials have approved a plan to build a four-lane highway straight through the

middle of an unexcavated necropolis with its first-century tombs, and within yards of Pompeii's marble amphitheatre and palaestra (gymnasium). The idea is to ease the traffic pressure on modern Pompeii. With a population of 33,000 and many thousands of cars blocking the main arteries, the town considers that it is choking to death.

The ensuing row is a classic example of the current debate in Italy: car versus ancient culture. Rome has begun to ban traffic from its centre. By the end of this month only residents and pass-holders will be able to park near the Colosseum or in all the old neighbourhood between the Spanish Steps and the River Tiber. This is the initiative of a Roman magistrate who also wants to change the institutional heating system from oil-fired to methane gas. Both the cars and the heaters fill the air with acid that turns marble to chalk.

Resistance is strong, not only because of the traditional Italian belief that cars are a fundamental human right.

In Florence, archaeologists want to dig up

the square outside the Uffizi Gallery and uncover a large Roman bath. The square, the Piazza della Signoria, could then become a subterranean museum linked by a glass passage to the Renaissance art treasures of the Uffizi. Nonsense, say city planners: the square needs to be repaired, not dug up. Over £1 million was allocated to resurfacing the piazza, and if they do not begin this month the government will reclaim the money.

The struggle in Pompeii, Florence, and to a lesser extent Rome, is not only about history but about money and power. Archaeologists are influential figures in Italy, and enjoy substantial financial backing from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and other official departments. The chief archaeologist for Florence, for example, has gathered some £750,000 to carry on digging out the Roman bath in the Piazza della Signoria.

In Pompeii there is wheeling and dealing between the city fathers of modern Pompeii and the archaeological protectors of ancient

Pompeii. The mayor, Nuncio Machetti, has proposed planting a buffer of greenery on either side of the planned highway. No good, say the ecologists: the fumes and the vibration will finish off the amphitheatre, hedge or no hedge.

But the Pompeii highway advocates have ways to soften up the opposition. They have set aside about £15 million for a special Pompeii library, and drummed up even more to finance new excavations in the ancient city. This has been enough to secure the defection of the director of excavations: he now supports the highway project.

As the battle grows more bitter, the anti-highwaymen have discovered what may be the decisive weapon: they claim that some of the funds allocated for the road are destined for the pockets of a Mafia building syndicate. The parliamentary anti-Mafia commission has been alerted and papers have been seized. The last hope for ancient Pompeii may then be that the Mafia can be shown to be profiting from the city's gradual destruction.

instance, that they might have their own currencies has in the past filled them with horror. So the island governments might be forced to accept Westminster's proposals, but only under duress.

The second question is: What would really be achieved? The Channel Islands, it is true, are particularly convenient for offshore financial transactions. Vanuatu in the New Hebrides has recently been promoting its own attractions as a tax haven to the UK financial community, seemingly oblivious of the fact that Jersey is 40 minutes flying time while the New Hebrides is about 36 hours. And in Jersey they speak English and have a highly developed financial and legal infrastructure.

But there can be little doubt that if Labour were successful in annexing the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to the UK's structure of company law, the transactions that they seek to prevent would simply be driven further offshore to Luxembourg, Switzerland or the Bahamas.

Rodney Lord

## Why abolishing our tax havens might not achieve much

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have never been much loved by the Labour Party. Thursday's document on *Making the City Safe* returns to the attack with a thinly-veiled threat to force the islands to accept imposition of UK company law.

Labour has tried in the past to stop the islands from being used as tax havens. In 1975, the last Labour government ruled that UK residents who moved to the Channel Islands would be deemed to continue to reside in mainland Britain for another 20 years and be taxed at British rates. The Channel Islanders regarded this, with some justice, as blatant discrimination when compared with the freedom of British residents to emigrate to anywhere else in the world without suffering tax penalties. The ruling was repealed by the incoming Conservative government. But the proposal actually to impose British law on the islands, rather than to alter British law to the disadvantage of Britons moving to Jersey, is much more controversial.

The substance of Labour's concern is perfectly understandable.

Shareholders can hide behind nominee names in the islands in a way that is difficult in mainland Britain. This can mean that investigations into insider trading and other forms of financial malpractice often run up against a brick wall if the malefactor has had the foresight to trade through a Jersey-registered company.

Company law in Jersey is based on statutes stretching from 1861 to 1968 and is essentially an atavistic version of old UK company law. The top rate of income tax is currently 20 per cent, which is also the rate of company tax. There is no inheritance tax and no capital gains tax. In addition there is a special form of company called the Jersey Corporate Tax company which, doing no business in Jersey and controlled from outside the island, may pay a flat-rate tax of just £500 a year.

To set up such a company the promoters have to provide certain information to the island's Commercial Relations Adviser, including the names of the beneficial shareholders. But there is no requirement to disclose any changes in beneficial ownership. The company must have an annual general meeting in Jersey and file an annual return including the names and addresses of shareholders, but it does not need to draw up accounts or to identify the beneficial owners behind the nominee shareholders. The rules for Guernsey and the Isle of Man are similar.

Tax-averse companies like this (Jersey prefers the term "special tax regime") can provide a useful and legitimate function. A multinational company operating in the Middle East, for instance, might welcome somewhere in a less

politically sensitive area in which to store income virtually free of tax until it was convenient to repatriate it. But the facility can also be used to cover the traces of less respectable transactions.

There are two main questions to which Labour's proposals do not provide clear answers. First, would it be practicable, given the present constitutional relationship between Britain and the islands, to try to force company law on them when they have gone to some trouble to market their special tax regime?

Economic and home affairs, including taxation and company law, have traditionally been a matter for the islands themselves. Westminster's role has been confined to defence and foreign affairs. In practice it is true that the islands are heavily dependent on the mainland. The idea, for

abandoned the match. Paddy Hall, the team secretary, said: "It was the only thing the referee could have done under the circumstances."

● A hunt saboteur made an interesting contribution to a recent meeting of the Warwickshire Hunt. While beetling along a lane, keeping an eye on the chase, he ran over the fox.

## Trying time

Like every man of sense, I shall be cheering for Fiji in the Rugby World Cup. Fijian Rugby combines talent, flair and sheer lunacy, as shown by the dramatic conclusion to the Naisori Sevens tournament. The final of the competition pitched Raralevu against the YMCA. With the score 10-10 at full time, the game went to sudden death. Raralevu's fleet-footed winger gathered a loose ball and sprinted clear. Once he was through, no-one chased him, and so he slowed to a happy amble across the try line. But a teammate sprinted after him and embraced him — and in doing so knocked the ball from his hands and out of play before it was touched down. The game was restarted. YMCA scored and so won the prize, the glory and the carton of Fiji bitter.

## Politico

As we all know, Conservatives everywhere are getting ready for a fight. North Evington Conservative Club football team are not to be left out. In a match last weekend in the Leicester City League against Surar at Wigston, a goalkeeper was knocked down and the referee was attacked. Leicestershire Football Association is investigating. The trouble began after the Conservatives had scored a goal. The referee eventually



Me? I've got Customs and Excise and Tax Inspector in an each-way double.

## Hard row

Many people spluttered when the delightfully named Za Za Horne (yes, a woman) rowed in Pembroke College Men's Eight in the Torpids, and rubbed in this triumph by helping them improve from fourth to third by bumping Christ Church. But the most

## Old-timer

A rather talented mid-field player made his second appearance for Atrincham of the GM Vauxhall Conference last Saturday — 18 years after his first. Frank Jarodius played for Atrincham in 1969, after a single game he soared straight to the dizzy heights of Manchester City. He played more than 300 League games for City, Aston Villa, Wrexham, Birmingham and Bury. At 37, he returns. Just is the wheel!

## SPORTS DIARY

Simon Barnes

## Minority voices

Now it can be told. Every time you pay a visit to any of the minor ports, you know that some nice and desperately eager young chap in a track-suit, or an old buffer in a blazer, will tell you: "This is the fastest-growing sport in Britain, 'know'. Well, the Sports Council can tell them all what's what, and I do so in its book *A Digest of Sport Statistics*. Here, then, is the table for the 10 fastest-growing port bodies in Britain between 1975 and 1985 with their percentage growth figures:

Scottish Baton Twirling Association, 1.173 per cent;

- 2 Northern Ireland Amateur Weight Lifting Association, 818 per cent;
- 3 National Roller Hockey Association of Great Britain, 500 per cent;
- 4 British Parachuting Association, 467 per cent;
- 5 English Volley Ball Association, 355 per cent;
- 6 Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association, 350 per cent;
- 7 Margaret Morris Movement, 333 per cent;
- 8 English Fives Association, 316 per cent;
- 9 Scottish Sport Parachuting Association, 233 per cent;
- 10 Welsh Ladies' Indoor Bowling Association, 208 per cent.





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## MARKETING THE GARDEN

Turned down by the BBC and offered a job within a week by Covent Garden, Mr Jeremy Isaacs must be wondering whether he has been landed with the more or the less troubled of two very uneasy inheritances. He is expected to succeed Sir John Tooley as general director in 1989, and Sir John Sainsbury is likely to follow Sir Claus Moser as chairman in the autumn. Neither appointment is confirmed but, with Mr Bernard Haitink who is to take over as musical director in 1988, they look set to form the triple leadership which will take the Royal Opera House into the next decade.

They will start from a point of low morale and financial and artistic uncertainty. The Opera House should get through this financial year without going into the red, but next year it has warned the Arts Council that it will fall into a deficit of at least £1m, unless its grant is increased to a level well above the rate of inflation, and above the allocations, already announced, for the other national companies. By delaying announcement of the Opera House's grant, the Arts Council has given tacit warning that this cannot be done within the existing subsidy regime.

Existence on the brink of deficit is a more or less routine condition in the performing arts, and morale at Covent Garden might be little dampened by these problems if artistic confidence were high. But the decline in morale extends also to the production side. A number of recent opera productions have been poorly received, contributing to a sense of uncertainty about what its role should really be.

Reaching for the highest international standards, its failures are more ignominious, and more expensive than those of companies with less to lose.

In a period when restrictive working practices have come under intense pressure in industry, there has been insufficient sign of this back stage at the opera. In a period attaching high importance to communications and the drive for new audiences, it has found it difficult to shake off the elite, metropolitan image, and (with its opera, as distinct from its ballet) to enable its productions to show the flag outside London.

Uncertainty also hangs over the long-planned project — which will probably mean the complete closure of the Opera House for two years in the early nineties — to embark on a major reconstruction of the building, designed in the 1850s only for short summer seasons and now permanent home for two resident companies.

Much expansion and improvement has already been accomplished in recent years, but the need for new space, and a second auditorium, is regarded as acute. With a laudable regard for economic self-sufficiency, the board has devised a development on the north-east corner of the Covent Garden piazza, to be financed by including offices and shops.

The loss of enclosing the last open corner of the piazza might be justifiable in view of the Opera House's need. But, under the current scheme, almost half the designated space would be yielded up to other purposes, so that the space the Opera House itself would gain has been severely pruned. In effect, the possibility of gaining the facilities needed to create a house worthy of Covent Garden's international role is being permanently relinquished to secure a very much smaller gain.

A plan for raising funds through far more aggressive

marketing and promotional activities has been put forward by Mr George Whyte, and the new regime should quickly declare whether this provides an alternative which avoids these disadvantages. Covent Garden, like the subsidised arts as a whole, must learn to market itself actively by one means or another. It is doing so less recently than it did, and the potential is high, for its products are of a kind with which companies find it rewarding to be associated.

Covent Garden still makes the mistake of keeping maximum seat prices lower than the market would bear, in a misconceived attempt to combat the charge of elitism. Star names command star prices. Its long-term survival depends on it taking the least possible from the purses of those who care not for them.

The Government can claim some credit for changing the climate of arts funding and for the resulting commercial awareness and improved self-reliance. But it should not in the meantime exclude measures to assist companies to make better use of the resources that are available. In the opera world especially, the need for forward planning gives great advantages to the proposal to change from annual grants to a three-year system.

Covent Garden and organisations like it can never hope to win a fraction of the sponsorship support that similar bodies enjoy in the United States without major changes in the tax system to encourage contributions. State aid will remain inevitable if Britain is to have an opera house of international standing. Its level is likely to depend on how successfully organisations show that their use of resources is marked both by thrift and by enterprise.

## NOT 1968

Communist Party paper *Rude Pravo* stated categorically that whatever economic and political changes might be introduced in Czechoslovakia in response to Soviet changes, they would be nothing like those of 1968.

Elsewhere, the reception for Mr Gorbachov's outspoken indictment of Soviet failings and his proposed remedies has been less negative. Hungary and Poland have welcomed the planned changes as signalling Moscow's endorsement of the economic and political reforms they have started to introduce themselves.

The Bulgarian leadership, ever-faithful, has rehearsed the eminent suitability of the Soviet reforms for Bulgaria.

(The fact that they require a complete revision of a reform programme already in train has been passed over in polite silence by officials in Sofia.) Romania, equally true to form, has remained aloof, convinced that the new, experimental, Soviet model has as little relevance for Romania as the old Soviet model did.

Everywhere there has been a tactical reluctance to point out that much of East and Central Europe might have avoided Soviet-style economic crises and Soviet-style non-democratic government if it had not had Soviet-style communism foisted on it at the end of the

last war. The reticence is surely deliberate.

Throughout the countries of the Warsaw Pact, the slightest draught from Moscow threatens both the lives of the frail and elderly leaders, and the order they have established. It also threatens the careers of those who benefited from the patronage of previous Soviet leaders, and could in time threaten the stability of the Soviet-style governments themselves.

To many of the younger generation and those tired or frustrated by the present regime, Mr Gorbachov's programme has appeal. For some, that is the appeal of reform within the system.

For others, however, the appeal is not only in the specific changes Mr Gorbachov has appeared to promise, but in the memories they have brought to life: East Germany 1953, Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Poland 1981. Of all these tragic episodes, the Prague Spring is perhaps the most potent symbol of hope in Central Europe.

Nearly 20 years later, change is coming to Central Europe. The changes in Moscow and the age of the East European leaders make it inevitable. Is there a chance of recapturing the spirit of 1968? And if there is, would Mr Gorbachov's Moscow be any more tolerant of its aspirations? That may be his ultimate challenge.

## FOURTH LEADER

Some years ago we read of a man who staged a smash-and-grab raid at a jeweller's; he flung a brick through the window one dark night and made off with everything he could scoop up. Leaving nothing to chance, he had wrapped the brick in brown paper, lest he should be betrayed by his fingerprints on the missile; unfortunately, the brown paper he used was a sheet that he had saved, thrifty fellow, from a parcel which had recently been sent to him, and when the police fished the brick out of the shattered window they had only to unwrap the paper to read their man's name and address.

More recently, there was a gentleman who marched into a bank, grimly masked, and demanded money in a threatening tone, saying that unless it was forthcoming he would shoot dead the hapless bank employee before him. A moment after he spoke, however, he realized that he had left his gun behind: shortly after-

wards, his collar, too, was fingered.

We did not suppose that we would ever hear of a law-breaker more inept than these; not long ago, however, the record was broken. The new not-quite-Napoleon of crime was arrested for trying to break into a parked car. Nothing new about that, you may say. Possibly, but in this case there were two elements that gave an altogether original tinge to the usual circumstances. In the first place, it was a police car. In the second place, there were two policemen sitting in it at the time. (He said that the windows were misted up. Well, he would, wouldn't he?)

We have always maintained that what matters is trying, not succeeding. It is good to come first in the race; but if we have done our very best it is no shame to be beaten by a faster runner. Even if, in the course of the race, we fall over, well, an accident can happen to anybody.

But there are, we feel, limits.

and trying to break into a car with two policemen in it is decidedly beyond those limits. It seems plain to us that the unfortunate car-breaker has mistaken his vocation; on the other hand, it is difficult to think of a profession he could follow with serious hopes of advancement.

He could go into politics, of course, where such behaviour is commonplace, but the competition is understandably fierce. If the man who tears the buttons off our shirts at the laundry should decide to retire, there would be an opening there, but — we speak with some feeling — he seems to be set fair for another half-century. (No, no, you shall not tempt us to say he should try the Bar; it would be a wholly unwarranted slur on a fine body of men and women.)

Presumably, the question will not arise for some time. But when it does, if any reader wants plates dropped, toast burnt or carpets laid the wrong way up, we have just the man.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Benefit of doubt for Gorbachov

From Professor J. Rotblat  
Sir, Mr Gorbachov's recent proposal about intermediate-range nuclear missiles (report, March 2) has been interpreted in various ways. Mrs Thatcher believes that it was the firm stand by the West that made him more amenable to negotiations. Others see it as an expression of Mr Gorbachov's sincere desire to start the process of halting and reversing the arms race, and — in line with his "new way of thinking" — not to stick to rigid formulae.

The former interpretation is a supposition without real evidence to support it, whereas there is the latter. A new approach to the nuclear problem is only one of many radical changes Mr Gorbachov has introduced into the Soviet Union and which have already transformed many aspects of life there.

Those who have met him are generally impressed by his clear thinking unencumbered by dogma, and by his willingness to listen. Some of us who participated in the recent Moscow forum of scientists pointed out the desirability of unravelling the Reykjavik package, and I would not be surprised if this advice did influence him.

Appreciation of motives matters because it may have a crucial effect on the course of the negotiations. If one starts from the premise that only a hard line would bring Mr Gorbachov to heel, there will be a tendency to cling rigidly to one's demands and not give an inch. This entails the danger of making his situation impossible vis-à-vis Soviet hawks. This may well have happened in the case of the test moratorium, when he finally had to give in to internal pressure, in the face of continuing nuclear weapon testing by the United States.

## A soldier's farewell

From Mr Oliver Worman  
Sir, I have seen Lord Morpeth's letter (March 5) and am sad that the Army is to lose a Balliol man.

His comments are accurate, but his strictures over-harsh. Of course there must be a budget for training and it is a truism to state that a budget is never enough. But let us be more constructive: an increased budget must be funded from savings made elsewhere.

Elsewhere, I propose, is the vast administrative tail at the Ministry of Defence and HQ BAOR. It is a sad fact of life that "careers to 50 policy" has overburdened the administrative tail and overfilled the command structure to so great

an extent that papers and yet more papers have to be produced to justify and self-perpetuate a seat at a desk in Whitehall or Rheinbalden.

The "salami slicing" mentioned by Lord Morpeth starts at these desks: may I suggest, Sir, that the slicers are sliced themselves, that the officers on gardening leave are discharged and that the moneys saved are used to fund and increase the budget for training and, perhaps, save yet another famous regiment from disbandment and extinction.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
OLIVER WORMAN,  
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, March 5.

With modern methods of surveillance — and with the even greater possibilities for verification which would open up if scientists put a big effort into this — together with the improved political climate which would follow from the reduction of arsenals, nuclear disarmament down to very low levels becomes quite feasible.

The time is now ripe for real progress towards ending the nuclear nightmare. It is essential not to miss this opportunity.  
Yours faithfully,  
J. ROTBLAT,  
3 Asmara Road, NW2, March 4.

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers  
Sir, Your leading article's analysis (March 3) of the National Union of Teachers' motivation in the pay campaign is armchair punditry of the most fanciful kind.

Neither the NUT, nor the other teacher unions which signed the Acs deal, were looking for a socialist solution. We negotiated a settlement which combined justice for the teaching profession with measures to improve the quality of the education service. Had Kenneth Baker accepted soundly the deal he would doubtless have received much of the credit for solving the dispute. Would *The Times* then have described us as "Conservative-leaning"?

The agreement negotiated at Acs included provisions specifically designed to boost school standards: maximum class sizes, teaching support time and proper supply-cover arrangements. These elements — vital corollaries to the list of duties for teachers — have been rejected out of hand by Kenneth Baker.

If anyone is ignoring the needs of children it is Kenneth Baker. In the final analysis, this imposed package will stand or fall by its success at recruiting and retaining teachers. Judging by teachers' responses so far, the package will certainly fail to address this overriding problem.

Yours faithfully,  
FRED JARVIS,  
General Secretary,  
National Union of Teachers,  
Hamilton House,  
Mableton Place, WC1.

row, then hand the hoe back, exclaiming: "That's the way to do it. Put a little more ginger in it, my lad. If you won't, I know plenty of Irishmen who will."

Good luck to the green-wellie brigade. I welcome them. Farmers have had their own way far too long. It's time someone came along and put them in their place. They have always proved to be too much of a handful for us.

Yours truly,  
GEORGE SCALES,  
1 High Pastures,  
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

## Fields for scope

From Mr George Scales  
Sir, There are many who may sympathise with Mr Curtis after reading his letter (February 28) about the farmers' woes in the backbreaking days of muscle power. As a retired farmworker, I take a more cynical view.

"To Mr Curtis's joyful claim, — that the modern farmer is no longer a beast of burden", I would reply that the farmer never was a brother to the ox. What's more, he had scant concern for those of us who were.

In all my experience on the land I can truthfully say I never saw a farmer, an employer of labour, humping 16-stone sacks of corn up the gangway steps himself. Generally speaking, it was he who ridiculed the idea of using a hoist and accused his men of slacking if they didn't mount the steps two at a time.

As for the "feeling of impending doom" which Mr Curtis associated with chopping out and singling beet, I must say that never in all my time did I ever cross hoes with a farmer in a beet field. In the main, his role was to explode upon a team of boers late in the afternoon when their energies were flagging, take a hoe from one of them and back away like someone possessed — half-doing the job — for a yard or two up a

## Euphemisms for a riper old age

From Professor Raymond Levy  
Sir, I was abroad during the appearance of Mr Bowell's plea (February 21) for a reappraisal of the term "elderly", but I am unable to agree with Joyce Allingham's implied suggestion (March 2) that we should only begin to adopt the term "old" or "elderly" very much later than at 60 or 65. As someone aged 53 who is involved in the study and care of the elderly I do not find the prospect of having these adjectives attached to me at all worrying or threatening.

Furthermore there are practical reasons for using the age of retirement as the "cut-off point" at which these terms are used. Important psychological problems often arise with impending retirement and after its occurrence. These have to be identified and studied by various social, medical and academic bodies. The abandonment of the terms "old" and "elderly" would make this more difficult.

Having accepted this fate perhaps we should adopt the French euphemism *troisième âge* and *quatrième âge* to subdivide the "young-old" from the "old-old". The term third age has been used in Britain, e.g. in connection with the University of the Third Age which, I believe, is a francophone import.

Are there any takers for the "fourth age" to keep Miss Allingham happy?  
Yours etc  
RAYMOND LEVY,  
Institute of Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park,  
Denmark Hill, SE5, March 2.

From Mr Frank Stacey  
Sir, In our local club for retired gentlemen we refer — if perhaps to deceive ourselves — to the 60-year-olds as young, to the 70-year-olds as middle-aged, and to the 80-year-olds as distinguished.  
Yours faithfully,  
FRANK STACEY,  
Highfield,  
47 Marlborough Crescent,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, March 2.

From Mrs Barbara Tanner  
Sir, When I reached my 50th birthday my daughter addressed me by letter and telephone as "Aged Mum". What will her term of endearment be for me in 20 years' time I wonder?  
Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA TANNER,  
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Oxhey,  
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Yours faithfully,  
S. R. WOODS,  
1 Hope Street,  
Macclesfield,  
Cheshire, March 2.

From Miss Mary Lamb  
Sir, Whenever I detect "over-sixties" stereotyping creeping into a conversation I suggest that such comments be relayed to Buckingham Palace and Number Ten. As a result the nonsense stops.  
Yours faithfully,  
MARY LAMB,  
41 Dergema Road,  
Chislehurst,  
Kent, March 2.

From Mr Lucas Mellinger  
Sir, Mr Alan Smith (February 28) urges us to clear our minds of cant and to improve the country's prospects by matching our supplies with the world's demands.

Is not the latter advice glib, easier given than taken, and therefore as cant as cant can be? First, the world cannot be supplied by what "it" wants because, world wide, wants vary. Secondly, wants are generally not essentials; they are created.

No investigation could, prior to its existence, have established the demand, say, for Coca-Cola. Therefore the dynamic market research advocated by Mr Smith, no matter what its speed and professed accuracy, can only amount to, at best, a gathering of subjectively selected twigs, a pedantic survey, no more dynamic than a post mortem.

The necessary dynamics to his dry research must be the heroic leap to uncharted ground which can fascinate the imagination and then establish the conviction in large numbers that the new product or service, the faster car, the face lift, or whatever, is an essential to well-being. This leap, being risky, is out of bounds to most directors responsible to shareholders.

Therefore false economic advisers, planners and politicians offer the seductive slogan: Survey — Analysis — Plan, suggesting that there is demonstrably a safe path to guaranteed success, when in truth success can be earned, if at all, not by agents or by governments on our behalf, but only by our willingness to put our selves, our energies, capital, convictions and reputations at risk! That is being creative: that and nothing less is essential to our economic growth.

Yours faithfully,  
LUCAS MELLINGER,  
4 Kew Green,  
Richmond,  
Surrey, February 28.

From Mr H. John Moseley  
Sir, I note with interest the letter from Mr G. Curtis. Some of what he said is true, for I was a farm pupil in those days and expected to carry my full share of 2cwt (101.8 kg) railway sacks of wheat. However, we welcomed beet and mangold hoeing, since it meant that the winter of standing knee-deep in water cutting hedges or cleaning ditches was over.

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## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 7 1887

E. B. Denison, who gave the lecture below to the Royal Institution, succeeded his father in the Beckett baronetcy in 1874. A silk, became Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of York and was created Baron Grimthorpe in 1886. Big Ben, which was installed in 1888, was named after Sir Benjamin Hall, first Commissioner of Works.

## "BIG BEN OF WESTMINSTER"

Yesterday evening Mr. E. B. Denison delivered a lecture at the theatre of the Royal Institution on the qualities and capabilities of bells in general, and that of Big Ben in particular. After a brief preface, in which he remarked that he was not going to give them a history of bells, with which they were very likely quite as well acquainted as himself, nor to enter into the question of the musical tone of bells, for he was no musician, he went on to say that with regard to the latter point most people seemed more surprised at his having made the Westminster bell the tone he wanted than at a bell of such a size being made at all. His having got the tone E was, however, most easily accounted for. For instance, if a bell was made of 30 inches diameter, and it had a certain tone, every bell of a diameter at once that of a bell of 30 inches would be a tone lower, so that it was perfectly easy and certain when they had one bell to know what the tone of another so much smaller or larger would be, provided the shape and relative thickness of both were alike. The big bell was originally intended to have been E flat, its weight 14 tons and its thickness 9 inches; but by some accident its weight was raised to 16 tons, and its thickness to 9 inches 3/4ths, which raised the note from E flat to E. When the bell was first thought of Professor Wheatstone, Mr. Taylor, and himself were selected to say what kind of bell was to be made, and though at first sight that question might appear an easy one to solve, it was, in truth, most difficult. The bell-founders of England, from one cause or another, were not willing to undertake the task, unless they were furnished with a design and full instructions as to what it was to be, and that was the difficulty which at last led him to become its designer. After referring to the popular prejudice which existed in favour of the "old" tone, he pointed out that the bell of hemispherical shape, but which he showed were poor, meagre, and deficient in tone when heard at a little distance. Mr. Denison said that his two colleagues and himself at last came to the unanimous conclusion that nearly all the bells of modern fabric were failures and that to initiate them would be to do wrong fully to the Great Tonn of Oxford. Mr. Denison characterized as one of the worst bells in existence, while the great bell of Exeter was a decent bell — if it only had a decent clapper. (Laughter.) There was one bell in the world that was almost perfectly similar to the Westminster bell, and that was the great bell of Moscow. That was a most favourable coincidence, for a bell of such a size as that at Moscow would never have been cast by a nation so well acquainted with the principles of bell-making if it had not been perfectly correct in form. As to the composition of bells, said Mr. Denison (striking bells of the different metals as he proceeded, in illustration of his remarks), those made of steel gave a hard sound with a metallic character, and antimony the sound was better. Iron and tin was better than antimony; one of phosphorus and copper made an average good tone. A mixture of aluminium and copper was a failure; but the best of all was the common bell of copper and tin. Many people believed that a bell of pure silver would have a fine tone. The great bell of Rouen was called a silver bell, but when melted and part analysed it was found to contain no trace of silver whatever, though it had an extra quantity of tin. (Laughter.) In fact, silver was never used in the composition of any bell that he had known or heard of. The mixture was copper and tin, the general proportion being four of copper to one of tin; and, though that was not quite treating tin fairly, bell-founders liked the mixture for the bell was softer and easier to tone. The composition used in the Westminster bell was 22 of copper to 7 of tin, or copper 75.85, tin 24.14, which was about the very best proportion in which they were used for bells. Its extraordinary specific gravity was another proof of the goodness of the composition. The specific gravity of York bell was 8.76, of Lincoln 8.78, and the highest figure allowed by the alloys of copper and tin alone was 8.87.

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Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1601.4 (-0.6)

FT-SE 100  
1998.2 (+0.4)

Bargains  
52723 (52948)

USM (Datastream)  
153.55 (+0.02)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.5870 (+0.0100)

W German mark  
2.9153 (+0.0294)

Trade-weighted  
71.8 (+0.4)

Six-year low for US jobless

American unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.7 per cent in February for the third consecutive month, bringing the US jobless rate to the lowest level in almost six years.

Economists cautioned against reading too much into the figures, however, since almost all of the increase was related to workers returning to their jobs following settlement of labour disputes.

The majority of the gains were made in service jobs, which grew by 115,000 last month, but manufacturing jobs also increased by 50,000 in February following a gain of only 3,000 in January.

Nissan deal

Nissan Motor Manufacturing has signed a leasing agreement for more than £230 million with Lombard North Central to finance building and manufacturing equipment. The package is part of the £330 million Nissan is investing to increase capacity at its Sunderland plant.

\$70m order

Balfour Beatty, the construction division of BICC, has won a \$70 million (£44 million) contract to build part of the Trans-Turkey Highway. The 37.5-kilometre (about 23 miles) section of the road is a joint venture between the British firm and Efes SA, a Turkish construction company.

FMS team

Joint administrators have been appointed under the new Insolvency Act for Financial Management Services, the share-dealer which ceased trading on February 10.

No referral

The proposed acquisition by Swiss Bank Corp International of Savory Millin will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Offshoot sold

Pilkington Bros is selling its subsidiary, Tunnel Building Products, to Steetley Brick and Tile for an undisclosed cash price.

Sale agreed

Associated British Engineering has agreed to acquire Peter Nisbet and Co, a catering equipment supplier, for £900,000 through the issue of 5 million new shares. It also proposes to raise £400,000 cash by issuing a further 10 million shares.

Share issue

The Wilson Bowden share issue was subscribed 4.3 times. Applications for 200 to 1,000 shares go into a weighted ballot for 200 shares, while larger applications receive 25 per cent.

Best Summary	14	Comment	15
Wall Street	14	Tempus	15
Money Mkt	14	Unit Trusts	16
Foreign Exch	14	Commodities	16
Index: S&P	14	USM Prices	17
FT 30	14	Share Prices	17
Stock Market	15	Fair Money	18

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2277.98 (+1.55)
Dow Jones	21105.85 (-70.18)
Nikkei Dow	2798.84 (+0.20)
Hong Kong	267.4 (same)
Amsterdam Gen	1548.6 (+10.7)
Sydney: AQ	1754.8 (+4.2)
Frankfurt	4298.41 (+17.4)
Commerzbank	535.20 (+2.40)
London: CAC	89.52 (+0.23)
FT 30	1998.2 (+0.4)
FT 100	1601.4 (-0.6)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	11%
3-month Interbank	10.10-10.15%
3-month eligible bills	10.00%
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate	7.75%
Federal Funds 5%	5.63-5.62%
3-month Treasury	5.63-5.62%
30-year bonds	9.90-9.95%

CURRENCIES

London:	E: \$1.5870	E: DM1.5885
E: Sfr2.9153	E: DM1.5885	E: Sfr2.9153
E: FF9.6956	E: FF9.6956	E: FF9.6956
E: Yen243.44	E: Yen243.44	E: Yen243.44
E: Lira1.8000	E: Lira1.8000	E: Lira1.8000
E: Escudo200.00	E: Escudo200.00	E: Escudo200.00

Britain asks Tokyo for fair deal

C&W backed by Thatcher

By Colin Narborough and David Watts

The Prime Minister has interceded on behalf of Cable and Wireless, the British telecommunications group seeking a big slice of Japan's lucrative telephone market.

There is opposition to Tokyo to C&W's efforts through its 20 per cent stake in International Digital Communications - to gain a licence to operate in Japan's \$1 billion-a-year international telecommunications market, which is now being deregulated.

Downing Street disclosed yesterday that Mrs Thatcher this week wrote to Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, expressing the hope that Japan would give C&W fair consideration in the bidding for licences.

Last November, Mr Shunjiro Karasawa, the Japanese Posts and Telecommunications Minister, bluntly told Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, that he saw no reason to open up Japan's telecommunications sector to outsiders as no other leading industrial country did so.

Tokyo appears divided on the issue and the Japanese Foreign Ministry, which is sensitive to foreign pressures, has urged a more accommodating approach.

In a Commons written reply yesterday, Mrs Thatcher underlined her concern about the C&W bid, not merely as one involving a specific British company, but also as a test case.

"I believe this is an opportunity both for Japan to show that its market is becoming more open, and to create an outstanding example of Anglo-Japanese industrial co-operation in high technology," she said.

The matter is due to be decided by the end of this year.

C&W, which stresses that IDC is mainly Japanese-owned, feels its bid has not been given serious consideration because of the Japanese authorities' protectionist approach. Also competing for a licence is the all-Japanese International Telecommunications Japan, the telephone monopoly in Japan is held by Kokusai Densoin Denwa (KDD).

Access to Japan's telecommunications market is important to the British Government which feels reasonably confident because of Mr Nakasone's strong backing for the internationalization of Japan.

Mr Robert Priddle, a Department of Trade and Industry official with responsibility for telecommunications, said in Japan that although the Japanese Government had declared the market open for foreign competition, the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) had put "successive obstacles" in the way of the group of which C&W is a part.

Mr Priddle told a press conference yesterday he had been assured by Mr Karasawa that the question of foreign participation in a rival group to Japan's Kokusai Densoin Denwa (KDD) was not an issue but that there was concern about foreign participation in the management of the new group.

Mr Priddle measured the minister that C&W had no interest in control of the new firm.

Apart from C&W, the Japanese and foreign companies taking part in the International Digital Communications group include the C hoh trading company, Toyota Motors, Fujitsu, NEC, the Industrial Bank of Japan, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank and Pacific Telesis of the US, as well as Nomura Securities and the Bank of Japan.

C hoh and C&W are each putting in 20 per cent of the 360 million yen (£1.5 million) of the initial capital, and Toyota 10 per cent. The rival group, International Telecommunications Japan (ITJ), includes three big trading houses - Mitsubishi, Mitsu and Sumitomo - along with Toyota and Matsushita Electric.

Acceptance of the IDC group would give access to C&W's extensive worldwide experience, not to mention its markets elsewhere. The group claims it could undercut KDD rates by 20 to 30 per cent.

Some believe that Toyota's attitude, with its stake in both camps, will be crucial to the outcome.

The MPT, meanwhile, has been pressing the two groups to merge, ostensibly because it feels there will not be enough business for two international carriers, but not least because it wants to eliminate C&W from the scene.



Nakasone: personal plea from Downing Street

Ladbroke calls for £294m

By Ray Heath

Ladbroke, the betting shops, hotels, property and do-it-yourself group, announced its widely-expected rights issue yesterday. It is asking shareholders for £294 million but there was no sign of the bid it has been tipped to make. Nor will there be one, said Mr Cyril Stein, the chairman.

He said: "There are no current intentions of making a major company acquisition. I am not saying we would not buy a company that fitted into one of our operations, but people have been talking about things like Great Portland, and that is not our intention."

Yesterday's rights issue was accompanied by the results, which showed record profits of £101.3 million for the year to December 31 against £75.1 million, a 35 per cent increase. On turnover up 31 per cent to £1,765.6 million.

Mr Stein said the proceeds of the rights issue would fund the expansion of all four of the group's core activities. The exercise will reduce the company's borrowings, which have been heavily increased by the recent takeovers. This led to a doubling of interest charges from £14.2 million to £29.4 million last year.

Shareholders are being offered three new ordinary shares for every 10 held at a price of 375p. In the stock market yesterday the shares fell 2p to 429p. Rumours of the issue had knocked them back 20p earlier in the week.

Retailing was the fastest growing sector for Ladbroke last year, thanks to Texas Homecare, which contributed £13.8 million over 37 weeks. Mr Stein said that Texas was responding to the company's financial controls, and a further 29 stores were planned for this year, taking the total to about 170 and increasing sales area by 1 million sq ft to more than 5 million sq ft.

Racing, still the heart of Ladbroke, produced profits of £49.5 million, up from £35.2 million. The relaxing of the off-track betting rules last year, which allowed live television coverage, had a significant impact on the results, said Mr Stein. He expected further increases this year following the introduction of live coverage of horse and greyhound racing via satellite.

The number of British betting shops in the Ladbroke chain has risen by 150 to 1,660, about 16 per cent of the market, and good results were reported by its Belgian and Dutch shops.

Despite the American tourists' sudden reluctance to visit Europe after the Libyan bombing, Ladbroke's British hotels still increased profits by 14 per cent, but its European establishments suffered from a drop in bookings. Even so, profits of the hotel and holiday division were up from £24.6 million to £27 million.

Property profits rose from £18.0 million to £21.4 million, and Mr Stein reported that the effect of the dollar on earnings from US properties had been contained.

A final dividend of 7p a share will make a total of 12.5p against 11.25p. *Tempus, page 15*



From cellerman to hotelier: Mount Charlotte's Robert Peel

London's hotel room king

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Robert Peel, a one-time hotel cellerman, became the country's second largest hotelier after Lord Forte yesterday when his Mount Charlotte group agreed a £41 million takeover bid for the London Park Hotels group.

The deal adds four hotels to the 58 he already runs - with half the 7,500 bedrooms located in London - valuing the group at more than £300 million.

Mount Charlotte is making a cash offer worth 760p a share for London Park compared with the price of 553p when talks were first announced last month. The shares shot up 60p to close at 760p.

London Park, the former Rowton Houses revitalized by the Jivraj family, operates four hotels in London with a total of 827 bedrooms. It reported pre-tax profits of £1.6 million for 1985 and in the six months to June made profits of £600,000.

Mount Charlotte has just announced earnings for last year of £18.6 million, an increase of 16 per cent, during a period when the hotel industry suffered from a fall in tourism from the United States.

The company has been involved in a period of rapid expansion and last year spent £22 million on a clutch of new hotels.

Mr Peel - who celebrates his 40th birthday next week - started in the industry as a cellerman at the Hyde Park Hotel before joining Mount Charlotte, then a tiny group valued at £300,000, after it had become enmeshed in the collapse of the Slater Walker financial empire.

He said yesterday: "We have a hungry bunch of executives who want to make this organization one of the biggest and the best."

*Tempus, page 15*

Short shrift for tin report

A Commons committee report on the tin crisis, which urges the Government to seek a debt settlement, has been given short shrift by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade Secretary.

His reply confirms the Government view that it bears no responsibility for the £900 million debts of the International Tin Council, whose collapse started an international crisis.

Since it was first disclosed that the SEC had begun a close review of Drexel, the firm has lost business. It has not made a hostile takeover bid since last autumn. The SEC investigation is focused on the activities of Mr Michael Milken, head of the Los Angeles office, who is widely known as Wall Street's "junk bond" king.

The firm has suffered also as the result of a suit filed by Staley Continental last month in which it alleged that Drexel tried to force it into a leveraged buyout which had been engineered by the investment company.

Staley asked for damages of \$360 million (£226.4 million) to compensate for Drexel's "high pressure" tactics. Industry sources said that other large corporations are considering filing similar suits against the beleaguered investment house.

Sterling set to beat \$1.60

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The pound looks set to break through the \$1.60 level against the dollar next week after another strong performance on international foreign exchange markets yesterday.

The continuing strength of sterling kept up pressure for a drop in interest rates although there was still no indication that the authorities were easing their tough stance on holding rates up for the time being.

With the British unit remaining high against other currencies, hopes were rising that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, would allow a large cut in interest rates around Budget time, probably in stages.

City analysts believe the Chancellor now easily has scope for a one percentage point cut in base rates from 11 per cent. Building societies, however, say that to ensure a drop in mortgage rates the Chancellor would need to bring base rates down by more than one percentage point.

The societies point out that intense competition to attract retail funds was forcing them to offer high deposit rates, and the scope for cutting both deposit and mortgage rates was very limited. But a fall of 1.5 to 2 percentage points in base rates might allow the societies to lower home loan rates by 0.5 per cent.

Sterling rose sharply in London by more than 1 cent against the dollar at one point, touching \$1.5900 before falling back slightly on profit taking to close at \$1.5880. The pound rose against the mark to DM2.9153, up 2 pennings.

The trade weighted index, measured against a basket of currencies, moved ahead to 72.00 but ended the day up 0.4 at 71.8, an increase of 0.9 over the last two days.

Dealers said that although high British interest rates were pushing up sterling, no other important major currencies were competing for attention.

The dollar strengthened a little on better-than-expected February unemployment figures which showed a jobless rate of 6.7, unchanged from January. The dollar edged up against the mark.

SEC lawyers move west on insider trading

Focus on London link

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Securities and Exchange Commission intensified its probe of the London connection with America's insider trading scandal this week by sending a team of lawyers to California to question senior officials of Clarendon Group.

Industry sources confirmed yesterday that SEC investigators looking at the activities of Drexel Burnham Lambert were demanding extensive information from Clarendon and other big clients of the investment banking firm.

The pace of the government's investigation has picked up sharply as the SEC team works to meet an informal late spring deadline to complete its study of extensive securities violations brought to light by the disclosures of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbitrator, Mr Dennis Levine, Mr Martin Siegel and others who are cooperating with officials.

The focus shifted to Los Angeles this week where the lawyers began examining Drexel's links with Mr Rodrigo Rocha, president of Clarendon, Mr Gay Dove, the London-based money manager of Clarendon, Mr Gerald Hest, Clarendon's chief financial officer, and Katherine Wilkerson, manager of the Los Angeles office.

In addition, the SEC has issued a formal order of investigation into the trading activities and takeover bids of Mr Carl Icahn, a well-known corporate raider who announced this week that he would make another hostile bid for the USAir group.

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## BUSINESS SUMMARY

## West Germans join rush to Midlands

West German companies are among the leaders in a growing trend towards foreign investment in the West Midlands, Mr John Butcher, Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, told a group of European and American trade representatives at the House of Commons yesterday.

About 350 West German firms have set up in business in Britain since 1981, bringing the total nationwide to more than 840. The West Midlands has 600 overseas companies employing 100,000 people and the 71 foreign firms which moved to the region last year represented about a quarter of all new foreign investment in Britain. West Germany, with 20.2 per cent, and the United States, with 36.33 per cent, have the biggest foreign presence.

## Hodgson to raise £3m

Hodgson Holdings, the federal director listed on the USM last year, is to raise £3 million by issuing up to 1,746,706 new shares at 170p a share. The shares have been placed and will also be available to Hodgson shareholders on the basis of one new share for every five held. The cash will be used for expansion programmes.

## Ryan Hotels profits hit

Ryan Hotels, the Irish hotels group, yesterday announced a fall in its pretax profits from £1.5 million (£1.36 million) to £1.1 million for the year to October 31, 1986. The decline, signposted at the half-way stage, was caused by the boycott of Europe by US tourists after the Libyan air raid. Earnings per share fell to 2.96p.

## Japanese warn EEC

A powerful array of Japanese industrial associations has given a warning to the EEC countries that there could be serious consequences for investment if the Community extends its anti-dumping measures to include products manufactured in Europe.

Associations representing more than 1,300 companies in the electronics and engineering industries have written to the heads of EEC nations asking them to reconsider the amendment proposed by the EEC Commission, aimed particularly at Japanese photocopying machines.

## Mecca 'on target'

Mr Michael Guthrie (right), chairman of Mecca Leisure, which was floated on the stock market in October, told the annual meeting that the group had made a promising start and was well on target for the year. The benefits of strong growth should come through in the second half and the following year.



## Mine groups to merge

Three Australian mining and investment groups, Eastern Group, Black Hill Minerals and Magnet Group, are to merge their largely complementary assets and activities into one new company called Eastern Group. This follows Black Hill withdrawing its takeover of Magnet. The proposed ratios in which shares in the new company will be issued to existing shareholders are one new Eastern share for every two Eastern or Black Hill shares and one new Eastern for every eight Magnet. The ratios are based on recent market capitalisations. The new Eastern Group will hold 42 per cent of Sanddown Minerals, 43 per cent of Gem Exploration and Minerals, 63 per cent of Samarra Exploration, 50 per cent of Lennard Oil and 30 per cent of Monarch Petroleum.

## Profits soar by 67% at Hongkong Land

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Hongkong Land, the Crown Colony's premier property company, yesterday reported a 67 per cent rise in profits after tax to HK\$920 million (£74.61 million) for 1986. The group is increasing its total dividend by 80 per cent to 27 cents with a final payment of 20 cents.

Mr Simon Keswick, Hongkong Land chairman, said that prospects for 1987 were "bright". The supply of prime office space in the Crown Colony was still tight and the company's portfolio was 97 per cent leased.

After the 1982-1983 property crash, Hongkong Land's profits crashed to HK\$168 million. The slump was caused by fears over the 1997 deadline for the hand over of Hong Kong to China.

But confidence is returning to the Crown Colony and the latest revaluation of the company's investment portfolio, which includes its prestigious



Simon Keswick: confident of bright prospects for 1987

Exchange Square Development for the first time, produced a net surplus of about HK\$4 billion. Shareholders' funds now stand at HK\$20 billion and the net assets value for the year rose by 15 per cent to HK\$8.17 billion. Yesterday the shares fell 10 cents to HK\$7.85.

The company has undergone a series of dramatic changes in the hands of Mr

Keswick and Mr Brian Powers, his strategist.

In December they hived off the Dairy Farm retailing subsidiary for about HK\$35 billion, and sold the entire residential portfolio to Mr Allan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, for HK\$1.4 billion.

The restructuring still has some way to go, with the company announcing last month that it is selling most of its land bank for HK\$1.356 billion and that it also plans to float off its Mandarin Oriental hotels group later this year - 80 per cent through a HK\$750 million rights issue and 20 per cent to be sold at open market value.

Mr Keswick said yesterday: "With these transactions and with the disposal of the bulk of our residential property portfolio and land bank, Hongkong Land will have regained its position as a pure office and commercial property investment and development company of the highest calibre."

## Jobless in EEC at record 17m

Common Market unemployment rose by 516,000 in January to a record high of more than 17 million, largely due to seasonal factors, including the very cold weather in northern Europe, the EEC statistics office said yesterday.

EEC officials in Brussels said hopes of keeping this year's jobless at about 1986 levels could now prove optimistic. The European Commission last week said it had revised downwards its projections for EEC economic growth this year because of world economic trends. It said its new forecast for gross domestic product growth of 2.3 per cent could mean unemployment would remain at about 12 per cent of the working population in 1987.

Male unemployment in the EEC rose 4.6 per cent from December to January, while the female jobless figure rose 1.2 per cent.

The EEC statistics office said the January figure of 17.05 million was a little more than 200,000 above that recorded in January 1986. It gave no January figures for Greece, Spain or Portugal, which calculate unemployment rates on a different basis.

## JOBLESS RATES

	1987	1986
	Jan	Dec
Belgium	12.9	13.0
Denmark	10.2	10.0
Germany	9.7	9.4
France	13.3	13.2
Ireland	15.3	15.1
Italy	14.3	14.2
Netherlands	12.4	12.3
Britain	12.1	11.9

Latest figures are provisional

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Low	High	Open	Settled
Three Month Sterling	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Mar 87	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Jun 87	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Dec 87	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Mar 88	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
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Mar 62	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Jun 62	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Dec 62	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Mar 63	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Jun 63	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Dec 63	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81
Mar 64	98.85	98.85	98.75	98.81



## STOCK MARKET

# Blue Circle shares jump as Australian raider pulls out

By Michael Clark

The directors of Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, breathed a sigh of relief yesterday as Mr John Spalvin, the Australian corporate raider, decided to sell the rest of his holding in the company.

Morgan Grenfell Securities is believed to have found a home for the remaining 7.5 million shares (6 per cent) worth £53 million, at about the 707p level.

The bulk of the holding was picked up by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the investment house, which placed it with a number of its big institutional clients.

The Blue Circle share price responded to the news with a rise of 21p to 719p — just 7p below its peak — as a massive 18 million shares changed hands. But earlier hopes that the stake had gone to one buyer soon dispelled.

Blue Circle has been the target of constant bid speculation in recent months, helped by Mr Spalvin's stake-building exercise. At one stage, he had built up a stake of nearly 11 per cent through Adelaide Steamship, his investment company.

His actions provided a few sleepless nights for the Blue Circle board, which regarded him as a thorn in its side. Last year, shares of the cement-maker slumped to a low of 526p. There were fears among analysts of a slow-down in profits, plus the threat of cheap cement imports from Eastern Europe.

Another record-breaking performance overnight on Wall Street failed to make much impression in London, where prices continued to labour under the weight of end-of-account profit-taking. Sentiment was not helped by confirmation of a rights issue from Ladbroke, the property, hotels and leisure group, which is asking shareholders for an extra £295 million.

But the undertone remains firm and there were signs of new-time buying in late trading for the Budget account which starts on Monday. The FT-SE 100, which breached the 2,800 level this week, was 14.9 down early on, but finished a net 4.6 down at 1,998.2.

The narrower FT index of top 30 blue chips opened 13.9 down and managed to claw its way back throughout the session. It eventually closed 0.6 lower at 1,601.4. The rise on the account is 34.4.

Government securities extended recent gains in the

belief that lower interest rates are on the way despite the reluctance of the Bank of England to show any initiative in the matter. Prices at the longer end of the market were sporting gains of up to 1/4 at the close.

The brewery sector continued to enjoy selective support in the hope that it will emerge from the Budget virtually unscathed. Analysts have been quick to point out that the sector has been left behind in the recent bull market and still has some catching up to do.

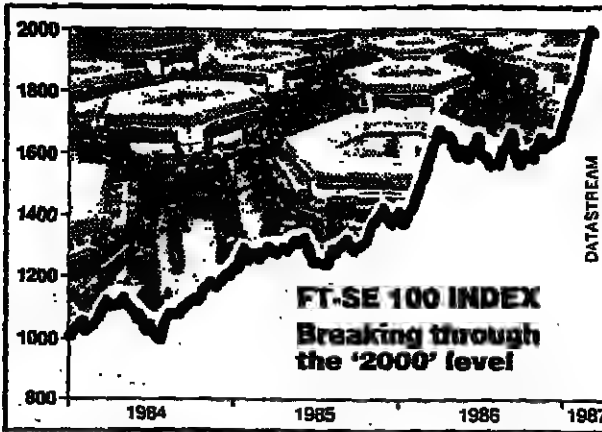
Yesterday, the spotlight focused on Allied-Lyons as the price raced up 19p to 405p on turnover of 7.1 million shares. Hopes are high that US-based Anheuser-Busch, the world's biggest brewer, will pick up Allied to advance its expansion plans in this country. Last month, it was revealed that Ong Beng Seng, a Singapore hotelier and financier, had built a 2 per cent stake in Allied.

Dealers were discounting the prospect of him making a full bid, but it did heighten speculation that a bid may be on the way. Anheuser has already had its name linked with that of Guinness, 5p higher at 323p and Scottish & Newcastle, up 3p at 247p.

The other brewers were also in sparkling form. Bass resumed its record-breaking run with a rise of 26p to a peak of 953p. HP Bulmer, the cider group and another takeover candidate, advanced 6p to 192p and Whitbread 6p to 334p.

Among the drug producers, Beecham rose 20p to 563p on prospects for one of its new drugs, but Wellcome lost 8p to 483p as profit-taking continued.

Dealers, who had been convinced that worries about a possible DTL inquiry into Burton's £500 million bid for Debenhams were unfounded, were looking a little uneasy yesterday. The DTL has confirmed that it is still looking into the case and has not yet made up its mind. As a result, the Burton share price, which



had raced ahead to 320p in early dealings, fell heavily on news from brokers such as Alexander Leung & Crutchfield, Morgan Grenfell and Chase Manhattan Securities, reacted badly. It eventually closed 3p cheaper at 301p with a total of 27 million shares changing hands.

Martin Ford ran into profit-taking after this week's speculative run, falling by 3p to 73p. There have been whispers that it is about to conclude a deal with Lee Cooper, the jeans maker, on another 31p at 438p. Following the news that Compagnie de Navigation Mixte had lifted its stake to 15.61 per cent.

Elsewhere in stores, Combined English hardened 1p to 282p despite the breakdown in the merger talks earlier this week with Kainers, the jeweller. The other big takeover target, in the high street, Underwoods, rose 5p to 235p. Woolworth, which had been hoping to agree a merger with

is being arranged to make a full bid.

The big four clearing banks recovered from early profit-taking and mostly managed to close with small gains on the day. The only casualty was National Westminster, still regarded by some analysts as the cheapest, which produced annual pretax profits topping £1 billion last month. The shares finished 2p lighter at 622p. But Barclays firmed 1p to 523p, Lloyds 2p to 499p and Midland 4p to 638p.

There was little respite for the insurance composites, mid-way through their reporting season, although prices managed to close above their worst levels. Falls were seen in General Accident 4p to 955p, Guardian Royal Exchange 2p to 885p, Royal Insurance 4p to 983p and Sun Alliance a similar amount at 753p.

Keep an eye on Rivlin, the USM-quoted property and textiles group, up 4p to 1016p. Interim figures expected on Wednesday may include details of the proposed merger with City Merchant Developers, headed by Mr Martin Landau, who advised Rivlin on its bid for Marlborough Property Holdings.

Only Commercial Union, which reported earlier this week, managed any headway, firming by 1.5p to 320.5p.

FRANKFURT: The market closed mostly lower in active trading as car shares tumbled on the news of sharp losses at Volkswagen's Brazilian unit. While many stocks advanced in the first hour of trading, profit-taking in the second half of the session pushed most equities below Thursday's close.

The Commerzbank index, which was measured at midday, edged up by 4.2 points to 1,754.6.

HONG KONG: After a dramatic fall on Thursday, shares saw a return to hectic trading as the market consolidated. Prices opened weak as a follow-up to the large selling orders on Thursday, but bargain-hunters moved in and absorbed much of the selling. The Hang Seng index closed at 2,798.64 (2,798.44).

TOKYO: Shares slipped on heavy volume, as profit-taking undermined an early advance. Investors reverted to cautious profit-taking because of technical indications that many market positions were overbought. The Nikkei Dow index closed at 21,105.85, down 70.18.

## ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	6,800	Gen Accident	788	Midland	2,000
Anheuser	3,800	GEC	5,700	Packt Oilmen	78
ASDA-Hill	1,600	Glaxo	1,000	Reed Int	1,100
Asa Br Foods	570	Glaxo IT	1,100	Reed Int	1,100
BET	141	Granada	307	RMC Group	134
BHP	1,800	Grand Met	1,804	RTZ	1,300
Biff	3,600	GUZ 'A'	152	Rowntree	3,100
Birdseye	1,100	GUZ 'B'	872	Royal Ind of Slat	1,700
Biss	1,300	GKN	2,700	Sainsbury	681
Beecham	7,500	Guinness	10,000	Sauatchi	136
Bentley	18,000	Harrington Pty 'A'	870	Sauatchi	136
BIOC	1,700	Hanson	870	Sauatchi	136
Bloco	3,900	Hawker Siddeley	855	Scott Newell	880
BP Ind	229	Heldman	3,200	Seaboard	3,200
BPC	2,800	Imp Com Int	2,200	Seaboard	3,200
Br Aerospace	1,100	Imp Com Int	2,200	Shell	7,800
Br Airways	21,000	Jaguar	2,400	Smith & Nephew	4,300
Br Gas	21,000	Ladbroke	8,000	STC	3,000
Br Petroleum	8,200	Land Securities	1,800	Stamart	4,900
Br Telecom	5,400	Lapin & Gen	984	Stamart	4,900
Bristol	4,000	Lloyds	1,700	Stamart	4,900
Burton	778	Lonrho	1,500	Tarmac	828
Burton & Wilmshurst	27,000	M&S	2,700	Tesco	3,200
Cadbury Schwepp	3,800	Midland	1,500	Thorn EMI	948
Castle Vodka	240	Nat West	2,500	Trafalgar House	1,900
Cemex	8,200	P & O Dred	1,200	Unilever	1,500
Corn Goldfields	619	Pearson	161	Unilever	1,500
Cookson Gas	391	Pickering Bros	250	Unilever	1,500
Courtauld	347	Plessey	3,400	Unilever	1,500
Crested	1,100	Prudential	5,000	Unilever	1,500
Dorset	534	Racal Elcst	12,000	Unilever	1,500
English China	738	Racal Org	2,100	Unilever	1,500
Fisons	1,400	Rank Hovis	1,400	Unilever	1,500

## TEMPUS

## Rights issue will swing the odds back into Ladbroke's favour

The usually acquisitive Mr Cyril Stein of Ladbroke Group may have decided to step back from major bid action for now, but that does not mean there is not a lot of room for the selective building of the group's four core businesses.

Yesterday's £294 million rights issue will provide the company with scope to do just that without increasing the debt burden.

The proceeds will reduce the company's gearing — which rose last year from 61 per cent to 77 per cent — to a modest 25 per cent and dramatically reverse the size of its interest charges which cost £29.4 million last year, more than double the previous year's level. There will be a reduction of around £28 million this year.

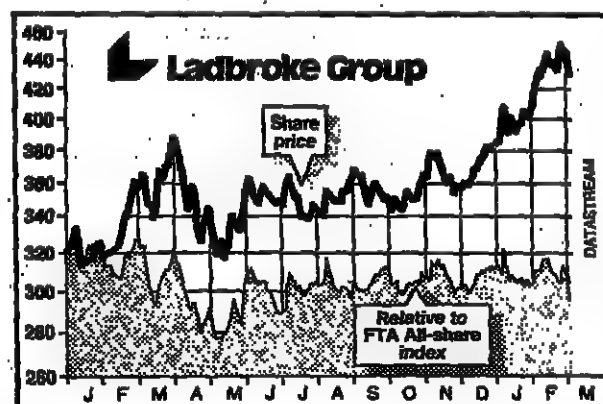
This led to some rapid recalculations yesterday of the possible outcome for the current year and already bullish estimates of £120 million-plus have been revised to £150 million.

The percentage tax charges is expected to remain unchanged, and despite the 81 million shares which are going on the share register, the dilution will not be enough to halt a rise in the earnings per share to about 20p, according to most forecasts.

Trading outlook for Ladbroke certainly looks bright enough in the current year. Texas Homecare has already benefited from some tightening of financial controls and the drive now is for more customer satisfaction. The chain will benefit also from the opening programme which will provide good economies of scale.

The results of the betting shops have shown already what a little more customer comfort can do while the introduction of live satellite coverage in Britain this year will attract even more customers.

The size of the impact of the dollar on property is an open question but the company borrows in dollars so that it is only the translation



of profits that has to be considered.

The American tourist trade should not be a problem for the hotels this year although there will have to be some strong marketing to counteract the weaker dollar. After the initial reaction to the rights issue, the shares look sound enough.

## Mount Charlotte

Last summer Mount Charlotte Investments, the hotel group, backed out of a £500 million merger with Pleasura, the casino operator, aimed at creating a massive new leisure conglomerate.

It appeared the institutions suddenly cooled on the prospect of Mount Charlotte, which has steadily been nursed back to respectability during the past decade, being submerged as a junior partner in the new enterprise.

Now it is back on the right track and yesterday confirmed speculation by emerging as the £41 million bidder for London Park Hotels, formerly the Rowton Hotels business.

It is a shrewd and logical deal for Mount Charlotte, turning it into the second largest hotel group in the country, giving it an even split in business between London and the provinces.

Mount Charlotte has shown it knows how to make money out of London hotel rooms. It was one of the first hotel companies in Britain to divert its marketing from the United States to Europe and

clides to back the break-up proposals, which is not quite as unlikely as it may seem.

To recapitulate on the story so far, Demerger Two's bid eventually won grudging approval from the L&N boardroom for its 81p a share cash terms, but not for its all-paper offer. By February 24 it was claiming acceptances of 63.83 per cent, together with purchases of 1.38 per cent in the market. Needing 90 per cent to go unconditional, it extended the offer to 1pm on March 9 — and closed the cash offer.

L&N, forced to admit to dreadful trading experiences in the past year and threatening to axe the final dividend, still refused to commit its 3 per cent shareholding to Demerger, or to recommend the Demerger paper which was all that remained on the table.

Enter Winterbottom Trust, a mysterious investment company from Perth. Winterbottom snapped up a 4½ per cent stake in L&N and threatened to block the Demerger bid.

That brought in the aggressive Evered group, which had hoped to buy some L&N interests until convinced that the Demerger plan was failing. It bought 14.99 per cent of L&N, listened to Demerger's ideas and set off to talk to the L&N board.

The Abdullah brothers who run Evered continue to play their cards close to their chests but clearly believe L&N contains some treasures they hope to unlock. Effectively they have grabbed the cudgels from the institutions, most of which, upset at the thought of losing the final dividend, had accepted Demerger's cash offer and were expected to start bashing a few heads in the L&N boardroom.

Evered may have greater clout than the fund managers here, but not the same will to support Demerger. And so the Demerger team have finally become mere speculators. Remaining L&N shareholders will need a little nerve, but should watch and wait themselves.

Thicker and thicker grows the plot at London and Northern. But, unless something dramatic happens this weekend, it is in danger of losing one of its principal characters at lunchtime on Monday.

That is when Demerger Two's £90 million offer for L&N, which was where the extraordinary affair began last December, will expire. Unless, that is, a new bidder emerges in the meantime, which is highly unlikely, or the L&N board executes a remarkable volte-face and de-

## COMMENT

## Why Aids speculators need Wellcome reality

The relentless rise of Wellcome shares brings to mind nothing so much as the mad days of the Aussie nickel boom in the late 1960s. On the back of the Aids treatment AZT, Wellcome shares have been in something akin to vertical takeoff since the turn of the year.

Whoever the speculators behind this rise have been listening to, it certainly has not been the company itself. Wellcome has been somewhat embarrassed by the gigantic over-reaction to a treatment which it admits freely has many problems. Among the side effects are a particularly virulent form of anaemia which in the opinion of most medical men can be worse than the affliction itself.

For this reason AZT is recommended only as a treatment suitable for terminal cases of Aids, when frankly the negative side effects may be worth the risk. In practical terms, this means that AZT may be relevant to perhaps 6,000 sufferers in the US and around 300 in Britain. A full year's course of treatment costs \$8,000 (£5,063) so that an optimistic estimate of revenue over the next year or so is a mere \$4 million. According to the medical profession, Wellcome has priced its drug on margins that are way below the norms

for an industry which needs to sustain a heavy research and development effort.

It should be a sobering thought for the speculators that there are perhaps a dozen other drugs designed for the treatment of Aids which in the next few years will be competing on the market place with AZT. The Roche group is believed to have a product which potentially at least may prove far superior.

Yet almost solely on the strength of AZT, Wellcome's market capitalization has soared by close on £3 billion since the tail end of last year.

Several leading analysts now rate the stock as a strong "sell" even though they consider the group's growth prospects, not due to AZT, to be among the best in the pharmaceuticals sector.

Optimistic estimates of the present value of Wellcome's profits from AZT over the next five years or so are not much higher than £150 million. On the basis of that £3 billion gain in market capitalization, the speculators have been paying for their investment in AZT on the basis of more than 40 times earnings. That is out of touch with reality and Wellcome shares, standing on a 160 per cent premium to the market ratings, are too high to justify on sensible grounds.

## An Alpha plus for BAA

The outstandingly successful flotation of British Airways shattered a number of myths. One of the strongest was that unfamiliarity might breed contempt.

Before BA there were no significant British investor interest in airline shares, no common yardsticks for their valuation and a fair degree of apprehension about whether institutions would warm to the risks inherent in the business.

The success of BA should prove encouraging to the confusingly titled BAA, which is hopeful of being privatized this summer. BAA, which will continue to be far better known in its old guise as the British Airports Authority, is, in its way, as much a one-off investment as BA. It is partly a property company receiving rental income from concessionaires, who sell duty-free and taxable goods on BAA property or who provide catering, car hire and car parking facilities. It is partly a service company, deriving fees from the use of its runways, aircraft parking facilities and other services.

The commercial income is geared to retailing operations. But both commercial and traffic revenues are a function of the passenger volumes through airports and terminals.

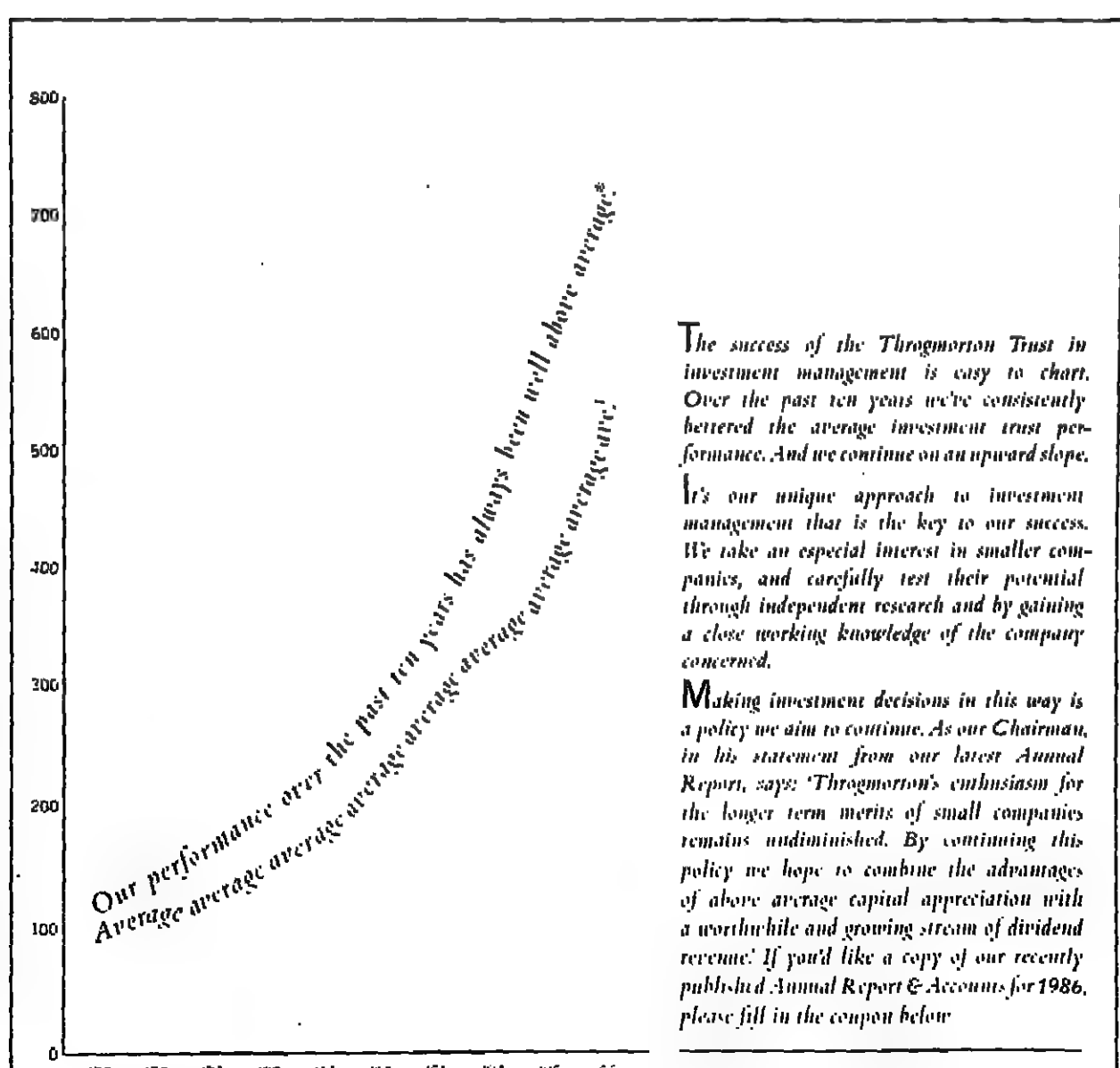
Even before privatisation, the financial record looks good, in fact a model of stability and consistency compared with

BA's. Costs in both the commercial and traffic operations have been growing at between 2½ and 3 per cent compound over the past five years. This is well below the growth rates of traffic inflation and overall revenues. Pretax profits on the historic cost convention have been rising at around 12 per cent compound during the same period, though the recession of the early 1980s produced some fluctuations.

BAA is blessed with an immensely strong balance sheet which shows a mere £70 million of loans in its £712 million of capital employed. Freehold properties amount to more than £300 million. Its capital spend of more than £600 million in the past five years has been almost entirely self-generated.

According to estimates compiled by County Securities, which is advising the Government on the flotation, traffic growth of around 5 per cent per annum looks possible over the next decade. Hybrid or not, BAA has many of the qualities that should attract institutional investors. It is difficult to disagree with County's view that BAA will prove a unique and high quality investment, worth incidentally double the price earnings rating on which the far more glamorous BAA was launched.

John Bell  
City Editor



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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	BTP	Chemicals/Plas	
2	Alphameric	Electronics	
3	Excelsior Clothes	Drugs/Stores	
4	County 'B'	Property	
5	Higgs & Hill	Building/Roads	
6	Metals Exp	Mining	
7	Costes Bros	Chemicals/Plas	
8	Blagden	Chemicals/Plas	
9	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
10	Home of Lenses	Drugs/Stores	
11	Turnill	Building/Roads	
12	CRA	Mining	
13	Black	Electronics	
14	Auda	Property	
15	Fries Marans	Property	
16	Br Borden	Oil/Gas	
17	Hickson	Chemicals/Plas	
18	Nat Aust BK	Bank/Discount	
19	Birmingham Mint	Industrials A-D	
20	Ayrshire Metal	Industrials A-D	
21	Brown Shipley	Bank/Discount	
22	Microgen	Electronics	
23	Tibbet & Bruen	Property	
24	Heywood Williams	Building/Roads	
25	Reinbrook Higgs	Chemicals/Plas	
26	Electromotors	Electronics	
27	Rosetech	Property	
28	Hutchins Whampoa	Industrials E-K	
29	Wimurst	Bank/Discount	
30	Bowater	Industrials A-D	
31	Concap	Electronics	
32	Hall Eng	Industrials E-K	
33	Watts Blake	Building/Roads	
34	HTV NVI	Chemicals/Plas	
35	Newmanhill	Building/Roads	
36	Windanour	Drugs/Stores	
37	Smalshaw (R)	Textiles	
38	Mironco	Mining	
39	Western Assets	Mining	
40	Time Products	Drugs/Stores	
41	Urd Lenses	Electronics	
42	Gr Portland	Property	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## BRITISH FUNDS

1986 High Low Stock Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Stock Price	1986 Change %
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1186	1186	1186	1186	1186
1187	1187	1187	1187	1187
1188	1188	1188	1188	1188
1189	1189	1189	1189	1189
1190	1190	1190	1190	1190
1191	1191	1191	1191	1191
1192	1192	1192	1192	1192
1193	1193	1193	1193	1193
1194	1194	1194	1194	1194
1195	1195	1195	1195	1195
1196	1196	1196	1196	1196
1197	1197	1197	1197	1197
1198	1198	1198	1198	1198
1199	1199	1199	1199	1199
1200	1200	1200	1200	1200

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1001	1001	1001	1001	1001
1002	1002	1002	1002	1002
1003	1003	1003	1003	1003
1004	1004	1004	1004	1004
1005	1005	1005	1005	1005
1006	1006	1006	1006	1006
1007	1007	1007	1007	1007
1008	1008	1008	1008	1008
1009	1009	1009	1009	1009
1010	1010	1010	1010	1010
1011	1011	1011	1011	1011
1012	1012	1012	1012	1012
1013	1013	1013	1013	1013
1014	1014	1014	1014	1014
1015	1015	1015	1015	1015
1016	1016	1016	1016	1016
1017	1017	1017	1017	1017
1018	1018	1018	1018	1018
1019	1019	1019	1019	1019
1020	1020	1020	1020	1020
1021	1021	1021	1021	1021
1022	1022	1022	1022	1022
1023	1023	1023	1023	1023
1024	1024	1024	1024	1024
1025	1025	1025	1025	1025
1026	1026	1026	1026	1026
1027	1027	1027	1027	1027
1028	1028	1028	1028	1028
1029	1029	1029	1029	1029
1030	1030	1030	1030	1030
1031	1031	1031	1031	1031
1032	1032	1032	1032	1032
1033	1033	1033	1033	1033
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1043	1043	1043	1043	1043
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1068	1068	1068	1068	1068
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# WHICH UNIT TRUST?

With over one thousand unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for an increasing income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

## Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969, with net income reinvested.				
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT. 1000 INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May 69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,571	11,070	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,321
1985	270,600	42,233	102,164	62,124
1 Mar 87	487,600	72,365	173,731	103,773*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income of net basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra dividend offering 1% above the average rate for the period. Building Society Association. M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. \*Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 4th March 1987 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	494.3p	847.3p	2.69%
Dividend Fund	117.0p	1,000.0p	1.17%
SECOND General	900.0p	1,802.7p	3.33%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The price of units is the price at which you buy units and the yield is the price at which you sell units. The price of units is the price at which you buy units and the yield is the price at which you sell units. The price of units is the price at which you buy units and the yield is the price at which you sell units.

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trusts for Dividend and Recovery are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex, Ch1 1JL. Tel: 0245 4588. Telex: 330633. Cable: 330633. Fax: 0245 4588. M&G is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

## Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 15th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.				
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
15 May 64	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1965	10,483	10,483	10,483	10,483
1970	12,483	12,483	12,483	12,483
1975	15,483	15,483	15,483	15,483
1980	18,483	18,483	18,483	18,483
1985	21,483	21,483	21,483	21,483
1 Mar 87	24,483	24,483	24,483	24,483

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra dividend offering 1% above the average rate for the period. Building Society Association. M&G Dividend figures are all realisation values. \*Estimated.

## Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 30-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mostly in British companies.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G SECOND General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.				
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT. 1000 INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June 56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	13,520	10,080	11,293	12,483
1965	16,520	12,080	13,492	15,093
1970	20,520	14,080	15,691	17,703
1975	24,520	16,080	17,890	20,313
1980	28,520	18,080	20,089	22,923
1985	32,520	20,080	22,288	25,533
1 Mar 87	36,520	22,080	24,487	28,143

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra dividend offering 1% above the average rate for the period. Building Society Association. M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values. \*Estimated.

## SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1987 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1JL. Please invest the sum indicated below the fund of your choice (minimum investment in each fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (income units are applicable to Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract will be sent to you stating the number of units you own and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY £ -00 DIVIDEND £ -00 SECOND £ -00

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return at tax rates			Min/max		Contact
	20%	45%	60%	Investment	Notice	
<b>BANKS</b>						
Deposit A/c:						
Barclays	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1587
Lloyds	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-726 1000
Midland	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-260 8000
TSB	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 8000
National Girobank	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	7.50	5.81	4.22	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.00	5.42	3.94	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-726 1000
"	6.53	5.14	3.74	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
"	7.01	5.43	3.95	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.45	4.97	3.63	10,000-24,999	3 mth	01-260 8000
"	6.55	4.92	3.58	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000

BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Ordinary A/c	6.00	4.65	3.38	1 min
<b>MONEY FUNDS</b>				
Aiken Home Monthly Income	7.66	5.93	4.32	1,000 min
Bank of Scotland	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.13	5.52	4.02	1,000 min
"	7.00	5.37	4.30	10,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.76	6.01	4.37	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.65	5.93	4.31	2,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.50	6.58	4.79	5,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.15	6.31	4.59	1,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.70	5.96	4.24	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.14	6.29	4.53	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.45	5.77	4.20	2,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.70	5.96	4.34	10,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.83	5.91	4.30	2,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.75	6.00	4.37	10,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.04	6.29	4.53	1,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.13	6.30	4.58	10,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.75	6.00	4.37	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.50	5.81	4.23	500-1,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.85	6.08	4.42	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.18	6.32	4.60	10,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.14	6.29	4.53	1,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.30	6.43	4.68	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.09	6.27	4.57	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	8.00	6.20	4.51	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.94	6.15	4.47	5,000 min
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.93	6.14	4.47	2,500 min

NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Investment A/c	6.34	4.66	4.70	5-100,000
Income Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	2,000-100,000
Deposit Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	100-100,000
Indexed Income Bond	5.88	4.40	3.20	5,000-100,000
32nd Issue Certificate	8.75	6.75	4.95	25-5,000
Yearly Plan	8.34	6.34	4.54	20-200 a mth
General Extension Rate	8.70	6.70	4.90	
Retail Prices Index - January	194.5	194.5	194.5	

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS				
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min
FPS (Management) Ltd	9.00	7.56	6.21	1,000 min

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS				
Leicester	7.10	5.50	4.00	500 min
Kirkcaldy	7.75	6.00	4.37	100 min
Wigan	7.75	6.00	4.37	100 min
Kirkcaldy	7.75	6.00	4.37	500 min
Kirkcaldy	7.75	6.00	4.37	500 min
Telford	7.10	5.50	4.00	1,000 min
Telford	7.10	5.50	4.00	1,000 min
Telford	7.10	5.50	4.00	1,000 min
Telford	7.10	5.50	4.00	1,000 min
Telford	7.10	5.50	4.00	1,000 min

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS				
Starling	10.14			7 day
US Dollar	5.37			7 day
Yen	6.18			7 day
D Mark	3.18			7 day
French Franc	7.45			7 day
Swiss Franc	2.82			7 day

\*Interest Taxable, paid gross. †Tax free. \*Other banks may differ. ‡Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent above ordinary accounts. §Increased at end of year in line with rate of inflation. ¶Returns for higher rate taxpayers may differ according to type of bond and above rates should be taken as a general guide only. Research: Deborah Benn (01-622 9082)

## KEY RATES

Retail Price Index (Jan '86 to Jan '87)

+3.9

Mortgage rate

12.25%

Bank base rate

11%

Bank prime overdraft rate\*

17% APR

Personal loan rate\*

19.6% APR

Credit card rate\*

26.8% APR

Hire purchase rate\*

26% APR

Bank deposit account

5%

Building society ordinary account

6%

High-interest cheque account\*

8.00%

Holiday exchange rates\*

Spanish pesetas 196











## This Sunday, take up the challenge

How often have you thought you could be happier, healthier or more successful if only you could change something in your life?

But what would you change and where would you begin?

This Sunday, The Sunday Times launches Lifepan, a unique, totally practical programme which can help you pinpoint your personal failings and frustrations, and help you set your own targets for improvement.

You might want to give up smoking; improve your appearance; use your leisure time more creatively; improve a relationship; learn to relax more effectively.

All this, and far more, is possible with Lifepan - if you are prepared to accept the challenge.

### Getting to know yourself

To change yourself, you must know yourself. Self-awareness is a crucial part of the way Lifepan works.

In this Sunday's Lifepan Scorechart, our team of experts fires some 300 questions at you to uncover everything from your self-esteem to your sense of self-preservation, from your reasoning power to your sexual maturity.

Armed with self-knowledge, your self-help can begin.

### Whose Lifepan is it anyway?

Created by The Sunday Times, Lifepan brings together the true skills and knowledge of an unrivalled team of experts: from doctors to fitness teachers, psychologists to financial consultants, and dieticians to logicians.

The Lifepan team aims to offer the most thoroughly proven ways to self-improvement, drawing on a whole variety of disciplines to build a co-ordinated and comprehensive programme.

## 100 days that can change your life

As the Lifepan programme unfolds over the next 100 days, experts will offer you guidance on improving every aspect of your mind and body, your prospects, your lifestyle, your relationships with others.

The advice and analysis, whether it's on getting fitter or having a better family life, is practical, unfaddy and above all workable.

Lifepan is a course of self-improvement that anyone, regardless of

their lives they would most like to improve.

How do your priorities match up to theirs? Lifepan will show you how to tackle all these possible problem areas, and more.

1. Enjoying better health Eating more healthily, getting fitter, giving up smoking, drinking less, losing weight.
2. Thinking more positively Stimulating the mind, acquiring new skills, finding more satisfaction at work.
3. Financial security Sorting out the getting and spending.
4. Worrying less Finding ways to relax.
5. Enhancing lifestyle Having more friends, making fuller use of leisure time, coping better at home.

6. Enjoying sex more The giving and getting of satisfaction.

7. Improving family relationships Helping family life to live up to expectations.

8. Improving appearance Acquiring style, upgrading the wardrobe.

9. Overcoming a fear or phobia Identifying and eliminating insecurities.

10. Feeling safe where you live What to do when a home is no longer a castle.

### Become the person you would like to be

Start Lifepan, and we believe it will prove to you that it is possible to change yourself.

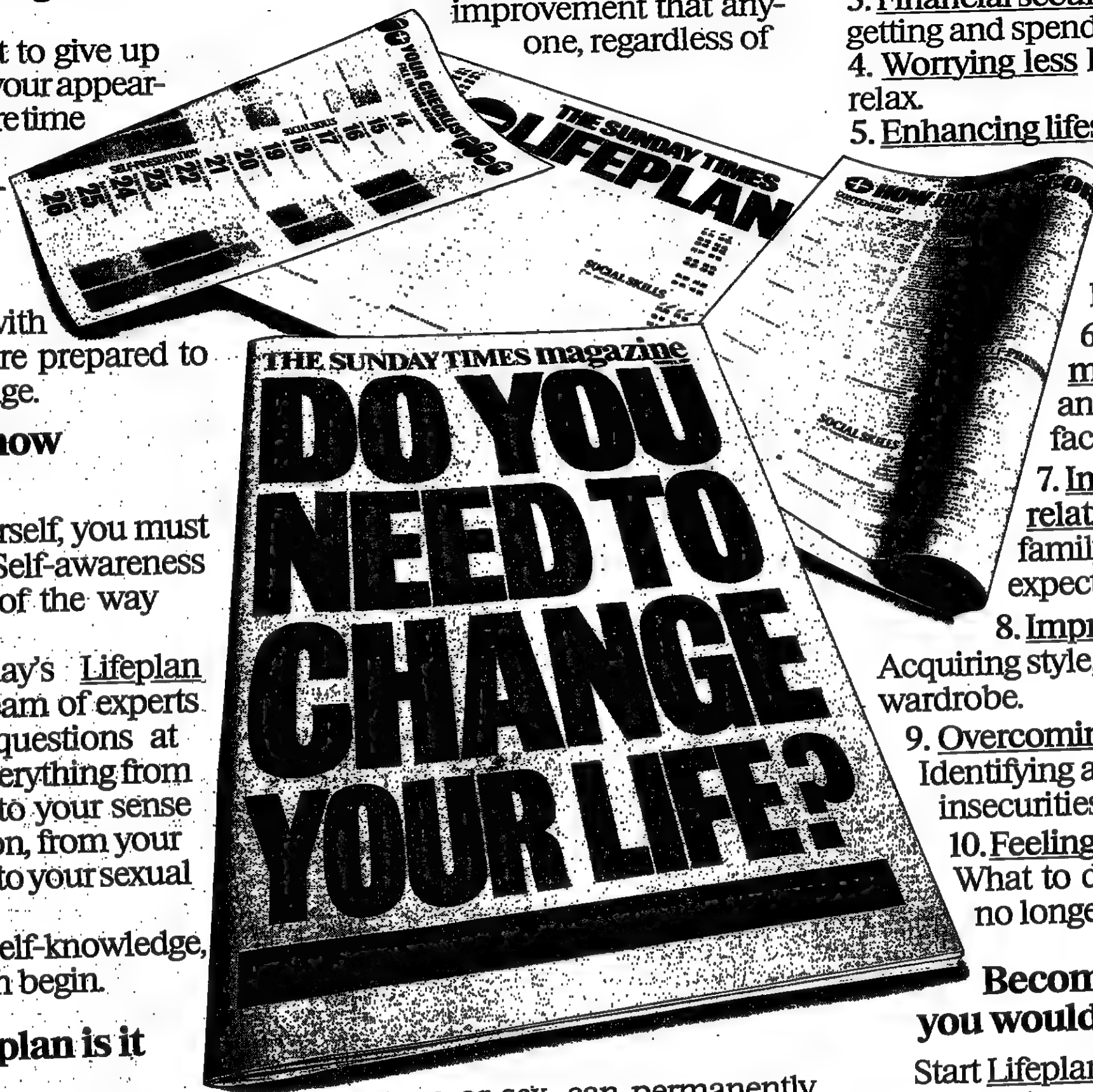
You don't have to keep on making the same old mistakes.

You can become more like the person you'd really like to be.

Lifepan can lead you to find a new, richer life.

Lifepan won't of course do it all for you. But Lifepan can make it possible.

To take part, take The Sunday Times this Sunday.



age or sex, can permanently benefit from if they're prepared to try. To encourage you, we'll be reporting on the 'guinea pig' volunteers who've already started Lifepan, and how they're progressing.

### What would you most like to change in your life?

When The Sunday Times began research into the Lifepan programme, we asked a selected group of readers to tell us the areas in

STARTING TOMORROW  
THE 100 DAYS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

— LIFEPLAN +



THE SUNDAY TIMES



## Are you leaving your heirs more tax than capital?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing.

But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of the new Inheritance Tax when you die.

And that share can be quite dramatic.

For example, on an estate of £500,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life assurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be the largest beneficiary. If there were two children they would each get £99,425 but the Exchequer would take £101,150.

And it gets worse; above £317,000 the rate is a staggering 60%. At Towry Law we can help you make plans to reduce your liability and pass on your accumulated wealth to your chosen beneficiaries.

Now think for a moment. I.H.T. does not just apply to the very rich. Anyone with an estate exceeding £150,000 could use some good advice.

Think what your house and investments are worth. And then think: I must get in touch with Towry Law today.

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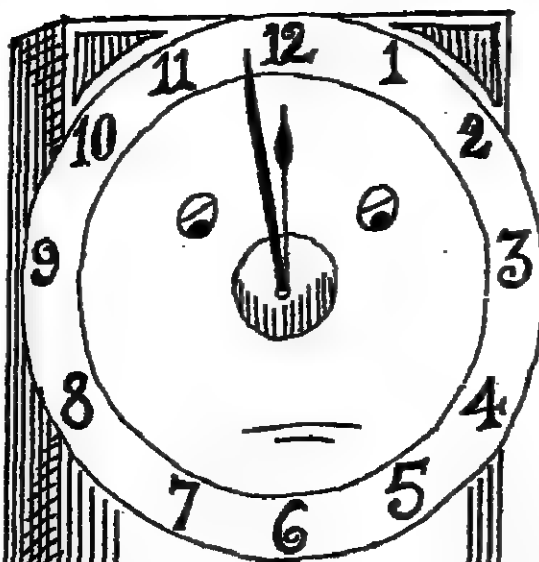
Towry Law & Co. Ltd., FREEPOST, Windsor, Berks SL4 1BT. Telephone: 0753 868244. Outside office hours 01-936 9057. Or 031-226 2244 (Edinburgh) or 0532 445911 (Leeds) or 0232 237121 (Belfast).

Please send me your new guide to Inheritance Tax and how to avoid it. I am/am not an existing Towry Law client.

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TT7828/1T



QUICKLY, MAN! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT TIME IT IS?



## SHARES

The words bed and breakfast can inspire beautiful dreams. In investment jargon, however, they apply to the system, now abolished in its original form, whereby shares on the Stock Exchange were sold and bought on the same day.

Such transactions minimized capital gains tax, stamp duty and commission charges. The Inland Revenue eventually altered the ruling on these deals. Buying and selling of the same share had to be seen as two unrelated transactions on different days. The quickest way to straddle two Stock Exchange accounts means, in effect, goodbye bed and breakfast... hello, long weekend.

Red and breakfast with indexation helps to reduce taxable gains. The technique is most commonly used by shareholders, but it can also be applied to unit trusts by unitholders who must similarly phase their transactions over two separate days.

Selling a unit holding for a loss need not be a disaster. It can offset gains. Married couples share the capital gains tax exemption of £6,300 in any one year, and the gains of one spouse may balance a loss by the other.

A bed-and-breakfast deal that establishes a loss is useful when a price fall has been overdone, and the unit price is

lower base for capital gains tax in the following year. Assume you have made a profit of £7,000 on your unit trusts this year — not too difficult a task in a bull market that has doubled the value of many portfolios.

Ignoring indexation, your chargeable gain is £7,000 minus the gains exemption of £6,300, that is, £700. The gains tax payable on that £700 at 30 per cent is £210. You sell your holding and buy it back. (You pay charges on the deal, so you must work out the advantages against the costs.)

You pay your tax and start the new tax year with a clean slate. Instead of your £7,000 gain being carried forward into the next year, with every pound sterling of profit beyond the exemption limit taxable at 30 per cent, you have your profit and another year in which to make more tax-free gains from a zero base.

If you are a unitholder with a large portfolio, take care over the number and size of your bed-and-breakfast deals lest you are regarded as a trader and your profits assessed for income tax.

You could also come to grief under the Furniss and Dawson provisions whereby the Revenue might rule that your many transactions served no purpose other than to reduce or eliminate a tax liability.

Unit trust groups have different approaches to bed-and-breakfast deals. M&G Securities produces a pamphlet to explain its system (01-626 4588). Because the M&G units (other than for the Trustee Fund) are listed on the Stock Exchange, unitholders can use their own stockbrokers, or the special terms negotiated by M&G with Kleinwort Grieveson.

Charges are commission of £25 plus VAT for deals under £5,000; 0.5 per cent plus VAT for £5,000 to £20,000; and £100 (maximum) plus VAT for £20,000 and above.

You must give your name and address (01-623 8000), the name of the M&G Fund, state that you wish to bed and breakfast and the number and type of units. Contract notes are then sent and you settle the cash difference between the two contracts.

Keep contracts notes for tax records.

It is not necessary, as with most unit trusts procedures, to send your unit certificates to Kleinwort Grieveson, but you must keep the contract notes for capital gains tax records.

The following list gives particulars of some other unit trust groups' rules and charges for bed and breakfast.

**Barclays Unilever Group**  
Day 1: Company buys units from client at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells units at offer price less 4 per cent.

**Fidelity**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price less 4 per cent. Certificates of the unit holding must be sent, and prices could change overnight so there is some risk.

**Franklin Templeton**  
Day 1: Company buys units from client at bid price.  
Day 2: Company reinvests the

proceeds plus 2.5 per cent at the offer price (normally 5.5 per cent, bid-offer spread). The investor has to tell the unit-trust company that he or she is doing a bed-and-breakfast deal.

**Garthmore**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at bid price plus 1.5 per cent for administrative charges.

**Headerson**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price less 4 per cent. Director David Payne emphasizes two points: (a) The certificate must be renounced. A cheque is then sent to the client who buys back the units thereafter, so that it can be seen that two clearly defined transactions have taken place. (b) The price may move sharply overnight, in which case an adjustment can be made of cash or units.

**HBI Samuel**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price less 4 per cent.

**The commission is negotiable**

**Legal & General**  
Day 1: Company buys at published bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price less 4 per cent.

**Mercury**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price less 4 per cent for deals under £5,000 and 4.5 per cent over that figure.

**MIM British**  
Day 1: Company buys at middle price.  
Day 2: Company sells at same price. Client is charged 1 per cent plus VAT with minimum charge of £15. At more than £10,000 commission is negotiable. To avoid administrative problems, the Special Reserve tax of 0.5 per cent (stamp duty) is levied on purchase.

**MLA**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price with 4 per cent discount. A cheque is issued for the purchase of the units, and the client must send the certificate with a cheque for the repurchase so that two separate transactions take place.

**Perpetual**  
Day 1: Company buys at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price with 4 per cent discount in terms of extra units.

**Proflite**  
Bed and breakfast to be spread over two days.  
Day 1: Company buys back at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells at offer price. Three per cent discount for individuals. There are different arrangements for intermediaries.

**Save & Prosper**  
Day 1: Company buys units from client at bid price.  
Day 2: Company sells units at bid plus 1 per cent. Company will pay stamp duty out of that 1 per cent. Charges are £30 on deals up to £3,000 and 1 per cent above that figure, and the transaction is regarded in the nature of a service to the customer.

**Jennie Hawthorne**

## AS THE FT INDEX BREAKS NEW RECORDS

# SMALLER COMPANIES SHOW FASTER GROWTH

Have you missed the boat? That's how it may look as the London stockmarket achieves record level after record level.

But there is still time to climb on board. So far, it's the larger, blue chip companies who have raced farthest ahead.

Now, if past experience is a guide, the smaller companies will catch up and overtake. Invest now and you could catch them at precisely the right moment.

### LONG TERM POTENTIAL

You should gain in the long-term too. The fact is, smaller companies have consistently outperformed larger ones.

Hoare Govett Limited, in compiling their smaller companies index, have calculated that over the last 32 years smaller companies have outperformed the FT All Share Index by an average of 6% a year.

That really mounts up. £100 invested in the All-Share Index in 1955 would now be worth £7,100. In the Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index it would be worth £35,980.

Smaller companies' superior performance is hardly surprising. They can grow much faster and further. Doubling profits of £1 million or £10 million is a lot easier than doubling £500 million.

### LOW RISK

The counter argument is that individual smaller companies can be riskier than larger blue chip companies. But if you're invested in a well managed fund like County's Smaller Companies Trust, which aims to provide good long term growth from small, successful and growing U.K. companies, your money will be spread among companies carefully selected for their special growth characteristics.

We take in most sectors from stores to electronics, from building to chemicals — looking for the Tescos and Hansons of tomorrow.

### COUNTY'S 'SMALLER COMPANIES' RECORD

Remember, of course, investors should be aware that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

But we have been remarkably successful. £10,000 invested in the County Smaller Companies Trust five years ago would now be worth £37,540.\*

In the last year alone the trust has risen by 41.2%.\* A good, and consistently good record.

### INVEST NOW — FOR MAXIMUM GROWTH

So don't miss out. Make a move into the County Smaller Companies Trust now and benefit from the bigger potential.

"Smaller companies have been better investments according to a new index launched by stockbrokers Hoare Govett."

Contact our direct dealing service on 01-726 1999 or complete the coupon and send it to us with your cheque.

The purchase price on 4th March 1987 was 288.6p x.d. and the estimated gross yield was 1.81%.

\*On an offer to bid price basis with income reinvested to 4th March 1987. (Source: IDC OPAI)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Contract notes will be issued within 7 days; certificates within 42 days. The prices and yield are published daily in the leading national newspapers. You can sell units back to the Managers on any business day at the Bid Price ruling on the receipt of your instructions and a cheque will be sent within 7 days of receipt of your dis-charged certificate. An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price of units. Remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries — rates available on request. The annual charge is 1% per annum (plus VAT) of the trust value which is deducted from the Trust's gross income. The income distribution will be made on 30th March and 30th September to unitholders registered by the 15th February and 15th August respectively. Trustees: Royal Exchange Assurance, Managers: County Unit Trust Managers, Registered Office: Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DX. Registered Number: 907310. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

## COUNTY UNIT TRUSTS

Post to: County Unit Trust Managers Ltd, 161 Cheapside, London EC2V 6EU.

I/We wish to invest £\_\_\_\_\_ (min. investment £500) in the Smaller Companies Trust of the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of my cheque, made payable to County Unit Trust Managers Limited.

Or debit my ACCESS account Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Surname(s): Mr/Mrs/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

First names: (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ I am/We are over 18

Please tick here for automatic reinvestment of income ☐ Regular savings scheme ☐

Please tick here for details of the County Share Exchange Scheme ☐

Please tick here for further information on the County Smaller Companies Trust ☐

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## FAMILY MONEY/4

## Pet subject in the household accounting

What is the true cost of keeping a cat or dog? NICHOLAS COLE investigates

On past evidence, the cost of pet ownership has been too much for some owners in terms of cash and personal commitment. The answer has been implicit every holiday period in the pathetic army of unwanted pets left by roadsides, taken into the woods, or hurled out of car windows on to motorways.

Hearteningly, however, it appears the cruelty trend may be waning. Although full figures are not available, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says the signs are that people have responded positively to its anti-dumping campaign launched last Christmas under the slogan, "Present Pets Are Future Problems".

It will, alas, take more than an annual conscience campaign to restore our reputation as a nation of animal-lovers or to maintain awareness of exactly what is involved in

caring for domestic pets.

"Our advice is that if you are not totally committed to the welfare of an animal for anything up to 20 years, don't take it on in the first place," says the RSPCA, which rehuses or humanely destroys 250,000 unwanted animals every year.

Almost 50 per cent of UK households now own a pet, with dogs the most popular choice. There are 6.3 million of them, according to the latest estimate available from the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association.

Then come 6.1 million cats and 1.8 million budgerigars. Forty-one per cent of the budget population and 33 per cent of dogs are owned by lower-income groups.

Rich or poor, the overall cost of keeping a dog works out to at least 66p a day or £4.62 a week — £2.367 throughout an average 10-year lifespan, including a £150 purchase price.

These figures emerged in a survey by a leading pet food company last year and were



Show dogs or cuddly companions for the children, pets must still be fed, groomed and cared for, and it all costs money

based on 1983-85 comparisons. So it is quite likely that the comparable "keep" total nudges £5. This is, in any case, now the estimated weekly cost of food alone for a large dog — and large dogs are increasingly prominent in the abandoned category. The upkeep of a cat costs around £3 per week.

Pets are most commonly fed on prepared foods. Although these have risen more slowly than the Retail Price

**Special treatment for disturbed dogs**

Index, feeding tends to be seen as expensive, probably because it is one of only two main costs involved.

The other is veterinary care, which for dogs has been estimated at £100 during the first year of life and £20 a year thereafter. Any owner with a sick animal will know that the latter figure is extremely conservative, and easily outstripped by a single treatment.

Then there is the impact of

advanced options that have become available during the past 10 years. These may not embrace the "Hi-Fido" treatment for disturbed dogs, so far marketed only in California, but they do include heart pacemakers and kidney dialysis, which can swallow sums approaching those charged in human private health care.

Britain's 6,600 vets are in a position similar to pre-National Health Service doctors; the majority conduct their practices on the most reasonable terms possible, with those in high unemployment areas well aware of their clients' difficulties.

Yet the vet naturally expects to cover costs and earn a living, which is why the British Veterinary Association recommends pet-owners to take out the appropriate insurances.

These are available from both general and specialist companies at annual premiums costing £26-£28 per animal for dogs and £17-£20 for cats. Policies basically cover treatment for accident,



injury and illness, plus pet replacement, but not preventive attention, vaccinations, breeding, castration and spaying. Owners must normally pay the first £10-£12 of any claim.

Benefit values vary considerably, so it is worth shopping around.

Schemes known to, but not actually endorsed by, the British Veterinary Association are: Holdfast, previously recommended by *Which?* as a

**'Horrorified at animal suffering in slums'**

"best buy" and offered by Holman General Facilities, of Wickford, Essex, in conjunction with the Bournemouth-based Dog Breeders Insurance Company, which also operates its own facility; the RSPCA-approved PAWS scheme underwritten by General Accident and administered by Jardine Gleanville (UK) Ltd, Birmingham; in addition to Prupet, Pet Guard, Vetwise, Pet Plan and Vetex. The

closest to an animal world NHS is the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, now celebrating the 70th anniversary of its founding by the redoubtable former social worker Maria Dickin, who was "horrorified at the suffering of animals in the slums of London".

With nearly 60 centres today, the charity-status PDSA provides more than a million treatments a year at an average cost of £4.90 a time; owners are invited to make voluntary contributions according to means. The average donation is 75p.

This is not a measure of public meanness but reflects the wide use of PDSA services by old people on fixed incomes.

They at least display a sense of caring responsibility, and this is more than can be said for certain owners who ultimately perceive domestic animal welfare costs as less affordable than the private cars they use for transporting pets to the abattoir of abandonment.

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## How to buy that country cottage

A cottage in the country or a retirement bungalow on the coast is a real possibility for many people who may think they cannot afford it. The taxman holds the key.

A change in the 1984 Budget, which got less attention than it deserved, seems to be catching on at last. What the Chancellor did was to make the ownership of holiday accommodation more attractive. Holiday letting is now classed as a trade, and rents are taxed as earned rather than unearned income.

This means the expenses of running the property such as postage, stationery, telephone and some travel may be set off against income under Schedule D. More importantly perhaps for people aiming to provide a retirement home for themselves, the taxman helps to buy the property itself.

A home-owner with more than one property is allowed tax relief only on his main residence. Which property he nominates is up to him. Interest on loans up to £30,000 is allowed for tax at the highest rate paid.

No tax relief is normally allowed on any other property except, thanks to the 1984

**Inland Revenue will want to see profits**

Finance Act, holiday accommodation. Tax relief is allowed on money borrowed for this, without a £30,000 limit.

At the time, the concession was hailed as a triumph for existing property owners who for a long time had been at loggerheads with the Inland Revenue for its persistent refusal to recognize holiday letting as a trade.

Many people, who have no wish to go into holiday property as a business, are just beginning to see how they can profit. Andrew Tappin, of chartered accountants Deardon Farrow, says: "It brings a second home — eventually to be a place of retirement — within the means of many people to whom it may have seemed just a dream."

Like all good things, especially where the taxman is the benefactor, there are snags.

To qualify for tax relief as a holiday let, the property must be in the UK and furnished. It must also be available to the general public for at least 140 days in the year, of which actual lettings must total 70 days or more.

No single let should be for more than 31 days, so this

rules out any thoughts of putting in friends or relatives at a nominal rent, although it does not mean that a profit must be shown. As with other trades, however, the Revenue will want to see profits rather than losses over a number of years.

While capital allowances are available on the cost of furniture and equipment for holiday accommodation, it may be more worthwhile to claim the alternative 10 per cent of the rent received (less rates paid).

Money that is spent on repairs and decorations before the first lettings are made, may be claimed against the first year's rent. A great benefit of owning a holiday let is that the income can be channelled into a pension arrangement with full tax relief. Now that the net profit ranks as "relevant earnings", up to 17.5 per cent may go into a retirement nest egg every year. People born before 1934 can set aside up to 26.5 per cent. There is no better way of saving for those not in a company scheme or with non-pensionable earnings.

The owner of more than one holiday let can meet the 70-day rule by averaging his lettings. And it may be a good idea to let your wife run the lettings if she has no other income. She would then qualify for wife's earnings allowance — at present £2,335.

Some couples may also find it worthwhile to be separately taxed. They should consider this when the joint income is more than £26,520, of which the wife's share is £6,986. This should reduce the total tax bill.

If the property is run as a commercial venture, the owner loses the use of it for a good part of the year, but the benefit in many cases will outweigh the sacrifice.

Obviously, the letting rates are necessary to stop a wave of second-home buying on the taxman's back, especially in areas where domestic property has been a best buy but where few would care to spend their holidays.

It is important to keep in mind the difference between holiday letting as self-employment and trading as defined under the 1984 rules. VAT and National Insurance may then enter into it.

A useful guide on the taxation of holiday letting, *Live and Let*, can be obtained free from Deardon Farrow at 1 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1JD (01-353 2000).

Joe Irving

# THERE ARE TWO AWARDS EVERY UNIT TRUST COMPANY WANTS TO WIN. MERCURY WON BOTH.

## OBSERVER

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS OF THE YEAR

"The two contenders for the main honour were Mercury (up 35.1 per cent over 10 trusts) and the Prudential (up 35.2 per cent over nine).

Mercury's top performing trust, Mercury Japan, is up 46.6 per cent, and Pru's front-runner, Holborn European, is up 82.3 per cent. Both groups benefited from inflation with each of their trusts.

Each had three trusts among the top five sector listings. And though the Pru's nose was just ahead in average percentage terms Mercury, arguably, had the harder task as the larger group. Its funds under management were £558.8 million at the start of the year (they are now £600 million) against the

Prudential's £552.6 million (now £651 million).

I therefore decided to split the award, and nominate both Mercury and the Prudential as The Observer's Unit Trust Managers of the Year.

For Mercury this is just recognition, not only for its efforts this year, but also for its well-founded reputation for steady and consistent performance.

"We have been running big pension funds for a long time, and we have got a tremendous team working together," says chairman Richard Bernays. "We have eight people in our European team, for instance, so we can actually do more work and cover the markets better."

14 DECEMBER 1986

## SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR

"FOR consistently above-average investment performance not just over a single year — but over two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and ten years — I nominate Mercury Fund Managers as The Sunday Telegraph Unit Trust Group of the Year.

Year in and year out, reliability is essential when looking after other people's money. At a time when a number of investment houses are succumbing to the temptation to sell themselves on the basis of the performance of a single specialist fund over one year — and sometimes over as little as three months — a return to investment fundamentals is overdue.

Richard Bernays and his team at Mercury, the unit trust arm of merchant bank S. G. Warburg, manage £940 million invested in ten trusts covering every major sector and type of fund.

Over three years — a more realistic measure than 12 months — they have produced the best group-weighted performance of any of the 30 biggest unit trust groups.

Bernays attributes much of Mercury's consistent performance to its formidably large team of fund managers — 65 in all — which allows it to look into special situations and interesting companies in much greater detail than smaller groups."

21 DECEMBER 1986

The Observer and The Sunday Telegraph don't make their annual awards lightly.

Nor do they make them for short term results. They look for performances consistently above average, year in and year out.

This is why we were pleased, but not surprised, that Mercury should win not just one but both of these honours in the same year.

For although our 11 funds now have over £950 million under

management, our highly skilled team has always concentrated on the fundamentals of sound investment which in the long run lead to success.

So if you're looking for a unit trust company to make the most of your money, you needn't take our word for the excellence of Mercury.

Take a second look at the quotations above. Then fill in the coupon or call us on 01-280 2860.

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# FLEMINGS

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

As the end of the financial year approaches, **DANBY BLOCH** and **RAYMOND GODFREY** explain that there is more to tax shelters than the Business Expansion Scheme.

There are several tax shelters other than the Business Expansion Scheme, such as enterprise zone property, forestry and, of course, pension contributions. So what could a tax shelter do for you and how do they all compare with one another?

Tax relief on the input at the highest rate that applies to you is the most attractive feature of most tax shelters. But the relative desirability of this relief will depend very largely on what is your top rate of tax and therefore how much a tax shelter investment will bring it down.

The marketing literature issued by financial advisers often blandly states that income tax relief is obtained at the highest rate paid on the investor's income.

This is a convenient method of shorthand but it is important to appreciate exactly what it means. Thus, in order to decide whether it is worth investing in a BES or an enterprise zone property, you must be able to calculate your tax position for the current year. You can work this out - approximately - with the help of the table.

Deduct from your income the various reliefs and allowances to which you may be entitled and then calculate the tax rates that apply to the remaining taxable income.

For example, Tom qualifies for the single person's allowance of £2,335 and his gross mortgage interest after adding back the tax relief he gets by deduction under MIRAS is £3,675 (£30,000 mortgage at 12.25 per cent). He has a company 2-litre new car costing £15,000 and involving a tax charge based on £900 this year. This is the amount deducted from his allowances.

Tom therefore has reliefs and allowances of £5,110 this year. In other words, it is only on his income of £5,111, and above that he pays tax.

The table sets out the rate bands at which tax is paid at the various different levels. The first £17,200 this year is taxed at 29 per cent (basic rate); the next £3,000 is taxed at 40 per cent and so on up to total cumulative taxable income of £41,200, the threshold above which taxpayers suffer 60 per cent tax on every extra pound of income.

In principle, tax shelters such as BES, enterprise zone buildings, most woodland expenses and pension contributions simply provide relief by increasing the amount of income on which you do not pay tax.

For example, you have taxable income after your allowances of £50,000. On the first £33,300 of taxable income, you pay tax at rates between 29 per cent and 50 per cent amounting to a total of £12,478; on the £7,900 of income that falls between £33,300 and £41,200, the tax is 55 per cent, that is, £4,345; and on the excess over £41,200 the tax is 60 per cent.

As total taxable income in this case is £50,000, the excess is therefore £8,800 and the tax at this level would be £5,280. You could eliminate this £5,280 tax altogether if you invested the whole of the £8,800 falling in this 60 per cent tax band into a tax shelter.

This would increase the amount of relief (that is, income on which you pay no tax) for the year by an additional £8,800 and obviously it would reduce your taxable income by the same amount.

If you invested £10,000, you would also cut down by £1,200 on the amount of income on which you pay tax at 55 per cent and this would provide you with a tax saving of £660.

In other words, tax reliefs first cut your top rate of tax and then, progressively as you invest more, they reduce the amounts of tax that you pay at lower rates. This is, in effect, what tax relief at your highest rate really means.

Clearly, for someone who pays 60 per cent tax on £8,800 of income, the tax shelter will provide the most immediate profit with regard to the income which falls within this

Pensions. Even for basic rate taxpayers, pensions are likely to be attractive compared with other forms of savings. The underlying investments - normally shares, fixed interest securities, property and cash - are relatively secure and can provide reasonable growth. Other shelters are much more restricted in the ways money can be invested.

Furthermore, there is no UK tax on the investment income and capital gains in an exempt approved pension fund. Not only is there a hefty up-front boost from the tax relief, but the long-term



band. The more the person invests and eliminates tax at lower levels, the less the tax relief is worth for every pound of extra investment.

If you can get tax relief at 60 per cent, you are probably prepared to consider investing in tax-deductible investments that are otherwise less attractive than the person who will see only a 29 per cent tax relief on his contributions.

In other words, the higher your taxable income, the more chance that you will find tax shelters worthwhile investments. Most tax shelter investments have certain drawbacks, which will normally make them attractive only to people who can forego substantial tax advantages.

growth within a pension fund can be substantial. No other form of saving for retirement is remotely as attractive.

Nevertheless, there are some drawbacks. You cannot take the benefits until your retirement - generally from age 60 onwards. The rights cannot be assigned and much of the ultimate benefit will be paid to you as taxable (albeit earned) income.

However, before contemplating any other tax shelters such as BES, you should make sure that you already have committed a substantial investment into pensions.

Forestry. There are valuable tax reliefs on investment into growing timber, although not on the

Taxable income	INCOME TAX RATES 1988-89				Total tax
	£	£	%	£	
17,200	17,200	29		4,988	4,988
20,200	3,000	40		1,200	6,188
25,400	5,200	45		2,340	8,528
33,300	7,900	50		3,950	12,478
41,200	7,900	55		4,345	16,823
Excess		60			

## FIRST PUBLIC OFFER

A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN THE POWERHOUSE ECONOMIES OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST



# CLERICAL MEDICAL DRAGON GROWTH TRUST



erhaps the most exciting region of the investment world today is Asia and the Far East. The dynamic economies of this area have been described as "the little dragons", with growth rates the envy of the more developed industrial world and investment prospects to match. Low, with the launch of the Dragon Growth Trust, Clerical Medical offers the private investor access to a highly promising investment sector with the benefits of sound, professional management.

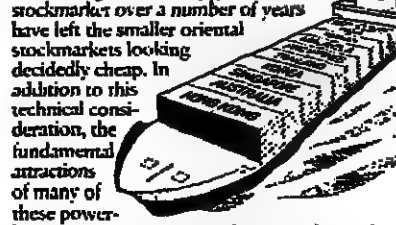
**AIMS OF THE TRUST**  
The Managers' objective is maximum capital growth from a portfolio of equities drawn from the stockmarkets of Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, India, the Philippines, Australasia and the Tolevo TC. It should be recognised that the high growth potential of these markets carries with it the prospect of above-average volatility, and investors should be aware of the longer term view.

Investors should bear in mind that the price units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

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The Dragon Growth Trust will be actively managed to offer exposure to those markets rich, at any time, offer the best capital growth

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**THE MARKET POTENTIAL**  
The strong rises in the Japanese stockmarket over a number of years have left the smaller oriental stockmarkets looking decidedly cheap. In addition to this technical consideration, the fundamental attractions of many of these power-house economies - (strongly export-led and with growing trade surpluses; suggest we are witnessing not only the resumption of solid growth in the established markets of Hong Kong and Singapore but also the rise of countries such as Korea. These countries look set to repeat the Japanese success story with rapid industrialisation, well educated and efficient work forces and declining interest rates. Currently the Australian economy is under some pressure but positive measures have been taken and investment opportunities may well arise during the course of the year.



**STRONG INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**  
The Trust will be managed by the Clerical Medical investment team responsible for over £3,000 million of investors' funds worldwide. Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited is

a wholly owned subsidiary of Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society, which has a reputation for consistency and safety managing clients' money since 1824.

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Units in Clerical Medical Dragon Growth Trust may be purchased at the Fixed Price of 25p until Friday 20th March, after which they will be allocated at the offer price then ruling. The Managers reserve the right to close the fixed price offer of units before March 20th if the price moves more than 2% from the initial investment price of £500 and investments of £1,000 or more, received by close of business on Friday 20th March, will qualify for a 1% bonus. Estimated initial gross yield is 0%. To invest, either call our dealers on Free Line 0800 373393 or use the coupon below and return it together with your cheque made payable to Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited, to the address shown, without delay.

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Joint Applicants should sign and print details separately. This offer is only open to investors over 18 years old. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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£2,495	£11,195	£17,707
1st Jan 78	1st Dec 86	1st Dec 86

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# SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

## Bills roll

**PROPERTY**  
The House of Commons has passed a Bill to give the Secretary of State power to acquire land for the purpose of carrying out a development. The Bill also gives the Secretary of State power to acquire land for the purpose of carrying out a development. The Bill also gives the Secretary of State power to acquire land for the purpose of carrying out a development.

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FAMILY MONEY/6

# Bills roll in before you move in

## PROPERTY

Spring is approaching, a time when not only flowers but also for sale signs start to burgeon everywhere. LIZ WALKINGTON analyses the costs of moving house

As the weather turns warmer and the evenings lengthen, looking for a new home can seem a pleasant prospect. Unfortunately, it can also be a very expensive business, even before the mortgage begins. The first expense is likely to be a holding deposit, paid to the seller's estate agent when an offer is accepted. This is effectively a gesture of good faith, and is refundable if the sale falls through. The amount the agent will ask for can vary, but in most cases £100 should be sufficient.

Next comes the survey fee, which the lender will require in advance. For the purposes of valuation, the lender will commission a basic survey to determine if the property is structurally sound. This will cost about £60 for a property valued at £30,000, or about £80 at £60,000.

For your own purposes, you may want a more detailed report. A full structural survey is the most expensive option, with fees varying according to the age, size and type of building. This will not usually include a valuation, so you would have to pay for that separately, but some cost may be saved by using the same surveyor as your lender.

For flats, a full survey may not be worthwhile, as part of the structure could be inaccessible. An intermediate possibility is a home-buyers' report and valuation, costing about £130 for a £30,000 property, rising to £175 on a home that is worth £60,000.

While your lender is pursuing the survey and references, you will need to arrange for the conveyancing. The simplest approach is to instruct a solicitor, but fees vary considerably as there is no fixed

scale. One factor involved is the firm's own overheads. A solicitor based in the centre of town may charge more than one on the outskirts.

The amount of work involved, and the risk element, as measured by the property's value, are other criteria. As a rough guide, you can reckon to pay about 0.5 per cent of the purchase price, but it is worth trying several firms to compare quotes.

It is possible to do your conveyancing yourself, though it is a complex business, and certainly inadvisable if the property is leasehold. Inexperience can cause delays, which could be a deterrent to your prospective purchaser.

A non-solicitor conveyancer may be somewhat cheaper, but lenders do not always accept conveyancers for their own legal work. If you appoint a solicitor who is acceptable, he will charge separately for this part, but it should be cheaper than paying two different people.

Banks, and the foreign banks in particular, may insist on using their own solicitors, and the costs will be passed on as part of an arrangement fee, which can be as much as £250. You can usually have this fee added to the mortgage loan, which can help your cash flow. Even so, your solicitor may still need to undertake some work on behalf of the bank.

### Borrowing a deposit can be expensive

and may even charge you more than he would to deal with a building society. This is a point worth checking if you have a choice of lender.

In addition to the conveyancing, the solicitor will undertake other work on your behalf. Local authority searches are carried out to ensure that there are no development plans that would affect your home - such as building a bypass through the middle of it. These should cost around £15. Land Registry fees, for recording the change of ownership, vary with the value of the property, being



Young hopefuls: buying a house can bring its own problems

about £40 on £30,000, and £100 on £60,000.

The final part of the solicitor's bill is stamp duty. This is payable on all purchases over £30,000 at a rate of 1 per cent of the total value. If your purchase price is just over £30,000, you should try to negotiate separately for any contents, so that the value of the building itself falls below the critical level.

Once the mortgage has been agreed, and the searches done, the next important stage is to exchange contracts with the vendor. At this point, you will be asked for a deposit of between 5 and 10 per cent of the price. Even if you have arranged a 100 per cent mortgage, you will probably have to pay this yourself, though the lender would then reimburse it on completion.

Borrowing this money can be very expensive. National Westminster Bank, for example, charges a £75 flat fee plus interest at 7 per cent over base rate. A loan account is a

cheaper option, if you can arrange it with your bank.

Alternatively, there is the deposit guarantee scheme, whereby your solicitor arranges a guarantee for the required sum in place of the actual cash. This would cost a first-time buyer £45 on £30,000.

### More to pay if you are selling too

or £70 on £50,000. For a combined sale and purchase, premiums are lower, at £42 and £29 respectively. Unfortunately, not all solicitors participate in the scheme.

You will also be responsible from this point for the buildings insurance on the property, which works out to about £1.60 to £2 annually per £1,000 insured. With flats, this may be arranged for the whole building by the freeholder or management company, in which case it will probably be included in the service charge.

One further expense that

may arise is an indemnity fee, payable if the mortgage is more than 75 per cent or 30 per cent of the valuation. It is a one-off payment, amounting to about 3 per cent of the excess loan, and like arrangement fees, it may be added to the mortgage.

For first-time buyers, this should cover just about everything. If you also have a property to sell, though, there are yet further expenses to take into account.

Estate agents' fees show marked regional differences. In the north, it is most common to give one firm sole agency, in which case the commission will be about 1.5 per cent of the selling price, and you will be asked to pay the related costs such as advertising.

In the south, it is more usual to instruct several agents. Only the firm that gets the sale will charge, but in this case it will be at least 2 per cent, and in London anything up to 3.5 per cent. This is, however, all-inclusive.

There will also be further solicitor's fees, for the work involved in the sale. Again, these can vary considerably, but will probably be as much again as the basic costs on purchase.

One of the hardest decisions is whether to buy first or sell first, unless you are fortunate enough to achieve a perfect co-ordination. If you sell first, you will have to arrange temporary accommodation for yourself and your belongings. If you buy first, you may need a bridging loan until the sale money comes through.

You will also find yourself saddled with two sets of mortgage payments and bills. Finally, when the great day arrives, there will be the costs of removal. Whether you do this yourself and hire a van, or use a professional, you should shop around for different quotes, and make sure of what is included. In particular, check that your belongings will be insured while in transit; even if you use a removal company, the insurance will be your responsibility if you do your own packing.

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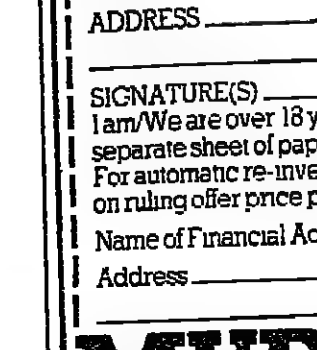
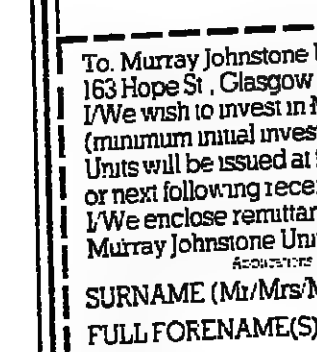
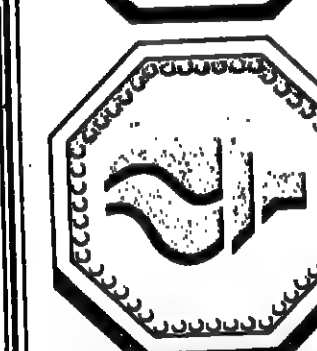
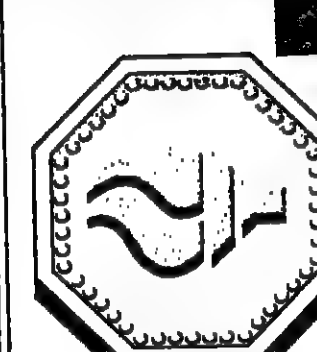
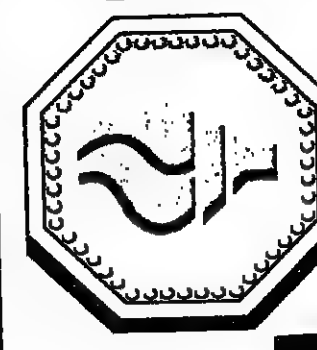
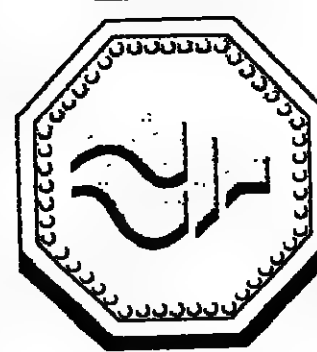
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PRICE AND YIELD: On 5 March 1987 the offer price was 50 p and the estimated gross yield was 1.4% p.a.  
DISTRIBUTION: Distributions will be made on 31 March and 30 September each year. The first distribution will be payable on 30 September, 1987.  
DEALING: Units are normally bought and sold daily (excluding bank holidays).

Current prices and yield are published in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph and Glasgow Herald.  
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MANAGERS: Murray Johnstone Unit Trust Management Limited, 163 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3UH Tel 041-221 9232. Registered in Scotland No 65167.

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■ No minimum holding period  
■ Choice of five excellent trusts  
■ Top-up investment facility

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# Ships that carry door-to-door

BES

The criticism often levelled against the Business Expansion Scheme has been that it has provided a tax dodge for higher-rate taxpayers - rather than investment in job-creating risk-orientated ventures.

In investment terms this means that in single-company issues there has been a preponderance of asset-backed "safe" vehicles - property development, farming, pubs, wine and more recently secured building contractors.

There is, of course, no such thing as a safe investment in unquoted companies, and those who put their money into farming and wine ventures have seen the value of their "safe" assets decline quite considerably.

It is pleasing, therefore, to see that some of the more genuine, risky ventures have indeed thrived under the BES. For instance, Hitech Lighting, which manufactures and distributes specialist lighting, recently reported pre-tax profits of £293,000 in its previous six months' trading.

Apart from being one year ahead of the projections forecast in the Hitech Lighting prospectus, the figures reflect trading results. Often BES companies' profit figures in their early years that represent nothing more than interest earned on the money they raised under the BES.

Hitech's chairman says: "The outlook for the remainder of the year is very promising, and we anticipate that the full year's results will produce a level of sales and profitability well in excess of the figures projected in the company's prospectus for the year to March 31, 1988."

Changes in last year's Finance Act have allowed ship chartering to qualify under the BES and a couple of sponsors have taken advantage of this.

Bromley Shipping, which is sponsored by LET Financial Services, is one such instance. LET is a subsidiary of London and Edinburgh Trust, the publicly quoted and highly successful property group run



One of Bromley's ships heads for port. Centre: Bromley's chief executive, Max Heimann, seeking at least £1.6 million and a maximum £4.65 million for the scheme. Right: Lockton's managing director, John Edwards, with £6 million in mind

by the Beckwith brothers, Peter and John.

The prospectus for Bromley Shipping is one of the prettiest I have seen.

The company, which is looking for a maximum of £4.65 million (minimum £1.6 million), intends to operate purpose-built shallow-draft and low-profile ships.

The prospectus explains that traditionally between up-river destinations in northern Europe and the UK cargoes

have been transported by barges on the inland leg and then transferred to ships for the sea stretch of the journey.

However, Bromley intends to use the shallow-draft and low-profile ships that can do both legs without the need for a transfer. Thereby the transport costs are reduced and up-river destinations become more accessible.

The idea is to provide a door-to-door service for cargoes such as coal, grain, minerals, animal feeds and a range of other products.

Max Heimann, chief executive of Bromley, has already done this profitably with his own company Union Transport (London). In its last year Union Transport made £800,000 profit after tax and has a net worth of more than £5 million.

Mr Heimann will devote at least a third of his time to the BES company - for which he is getting a three-year services contract paying him £17,500 a year.

Although this works out at more than £50,000 a year if a full-time multiplier is used, it is worth bearing in mind that Union Transport, Mr Heimann's company, is investing £200,000 in the company, paying the same price as outside investors without getting the tax relief.

Obviously, the fact that he is running a similar company is also something worthy of consideration - as LET itself realises in the prospectus. "UT and Bromley will be trading in the same market and UT recognizes that there would be potential for conflicts of interest," it says.

Three of the Bromley directors are unconnected with Union Transport and the prospectus says the management intends that the two companies co-operate on ventures to ensure that the interests of outside investors are not prejudiced.

Bromley's chairman is Andrew Smith, who is also chairman of Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker.

LET is also putting in £80,000 of its own money. It will receive a hefty 4 per cent

commission on the money that is raised, paying 1.5 per cent of this to recognized intermediaries who introduce investors.

LET and Union Transport have share options - exercisable at a 50p premium - if profits of the company reach £400,000 before tax by April 1985. These will enable them to bring their combined investment up to 30 per cent of the company.

### Company seeking £6m maximum

The projections in the prospectus are for profits of £229,000 in year one, rising to £672,000 in year three. The minimum that an investor can put into the company is £500.

Guinness Mahon is sponsoring Lockton Shops, a new company intending to set up a chain of electrical goods shops operating from freehold and leasehold premises.

It has already agreed with Bang & Olufsen, Panasonic and Technics that it can act as their authorized dealers in suitable locations.

The company is looking for a maximum of £6 million, and the directors along with other directors of Guinness Mahon are putting in £150,000 on the

same terms as the outside investors.

Interestingly, there are no special classes of shares entitling the directors to take a greater slice of the company if it succeeds - although there is provision for an executive share option scheme covering a modest 5 per cent of the company. The sponsor has options over 5 per cent of the company, but will have to pay a premium of 60p.

In common with at least one other BES issue previously sponsored by Guinness Mahon, there is not much in the way of full-time management. The managing director undertakes to work not less than 25 hours a week for a salary of £25,000.

The minimum you can invest in this company is £1,000. The prospectus says the sponsor will pay "professional advisers" between 2 and 3 per cent commission depending on how much money they introduce.

For further details of Bromley Shipping, contact LET Financial Services Ltd, 243 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1DH, and for Lockton Shops contact Guinness Mahon, PO Box 442, 32 St Mary at Hill, London EC3P 3AJ.

Lawrence Lever

### BUSINESS EXPANSION COMPANIES

Company	Activity	Sponsor	Telephone	Indiv Min	Closing Date
Acorn Hardware	Sawmill	Acorn	0728 3377	£500	April 5
Alliance Property & Construction	Constr & Mngmnt	Guidance	01-606 6321	£500	March 16
Barbican Health & Fitness	Leisure	Barbican	01-438 9889	£500	March 16
Bowley Shipping	Shipping	LET	01-381 1332	£500	March 14
Burrell Electronics	Building Management	Oakland Capital	0488 83565	£1,000 April 5	Call later
Puts & Pasty	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	March 31	
Caplain D.M. White	Leisure	Palmerton Sacs	01-325 5566	£1,200	April 3
Chavert Construction	Building Contractors	Smith & Williamson	01-627 5377	£2,500	March 13
Chavert International Hotel	Hotel	Capital Ventures	0242 594300	£3,000	March 22
County Gardens	Garden Centres	Johnson Fry	0235 833900	£3,000	March 16
County Resort Hotels	County Hotels	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	April 5
Crossland Lighting	Lighting Products	Hartley Ltd	021-454 5433	£837.50	March 11
Cryden Cable TV	Cable TV	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	March 26
Dir Belgravia	Property Development	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	April 5
Edinburgh Tenders	Property Development	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	March 13
East Forward Inc	Print Development	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	March 13
Fin Development	Fin Development	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	March 13
Gladding Secured Contractors	Property Development	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	March 13
Johnson Electronics	Digital Systems Eng	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	March 13
Lockton Shops	Specialist retail	Guinness Mahon	01-623 9333	£1,000	March 13
Oak House	Publishing	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	March 13
Perry Publications	Publishing	Johnson Fry	01-623 4888	£500	April 3
Peter Ling Design	Building & Design	Austin Hens	01-488 0228	£2,500	March 16
Portage Ltd	Hotel	Capital Ventures	0242 594300	£3,000	April 2
Roman Homes	Retirement Homes	Capital Ventures	0242 594300	£3,000	April 2
Secure Retirement	Secure Retirement	Cayser	01-623 8788	£1,000	March 16
Secured Property	Building Contractors	Chapman	01-628 4200	£1,000	March 17
Timothy Estates	Property Development	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	March 13
Thames Line	Transport/Property	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	March 13
Unicom Heritage	Royal Britain Exhibition	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	March 13
Weller Wiggins	Design	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£1,000	Open-ended
FINES	Small Companies	Capital Ventures	0242 594300	£3,000	Feb 28
Cass 1985/87 Fund	Venture Capital	Capital Ventures	021 2333404	£2,500	Open-ended
Memo VC	New Companies	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	March 20
Odyssey Spring 87	Small companies	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	Open-ended
Odyssey Spring 87	Small companies	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	Open-ended
South Alpha BES	High growth companies	Johnson Fry	01-438 0824	£2,000	Open-ended
Sussex BES	Sussex companies	Johnson Fry	01-5313075	£1,000	March 16

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FAMILY MONEY/8

# Pressure is on to buy your bottles now

## WINE

**CONAL GREGORY, Master of Wine, assesses pre-Budget investments in bottled assets**

It is a rare Budget where the Chancellor either reduces or increases duty on wine — as he did in 1984 to bring the ratio more into line with that of beer prices — or leaves it static, as happened last March.

This year the signs point to an increase, with merchants recommending purchases before the Budget.

Although the Wine and Spirit Association is campaigning against any rise in wine and spirit duty and even a "real reduction" for fortified wines such as sherry and port, most people in the trade echo the comment by Arnold Tasker, chairman of the Wine Development Board, that "it would be lucky to get away with a minimum increase".

The anti-alcohol lobby is urging the Chancellor to increase excise duty well above the rate of inflation, which was 3.9 per cent in January and only 3.4 per cent last year.

Yet alcohol consumption in the UK dropped by an average 12.8 per cent in 1981-85 despite an increase in the number of licensed premises. Part of the decline is clearly attributable to over-taxation on spirits and fortified wines.

With political pressure not to hit Scotch whisky in view of both the number of non-operational distilleries and the employees on short-time

working, the Chancellor is likely to raise only spirit prices in line with inflation.

"Fortified wines will not stand an increase," says Richard Tanner, chairman of Tanners of Shrewsbury, old-established wine merchants.

He has observed how buoyant sales of the company's Manzaniella Sherry, Crusted and Vintage Character Port have been. The latter, which replaced Cockburn Vintage Character, is supplied by a new house, Churchill Graham. It is a fine blend of quality wines from some of the best grade A quintas in the valleys of the Upper Douro and Pinhao rivers.

Michael Egan, of Sotheby's, reports keen demand for three port vintages: 1963 (such as Cockburn at £320 per dozen bottles and Dow at £340), 1970 (such as Quinta do Noval at £170) and particularly 1977. Indeed 1977 ports are securing the same prices as wines of 1970, such as Croft '70 and Warre '77, both at £170 and estimated at £160-£190.

Michael Broadbent, of Christie's, recommends you should "still buy 1975 and 1977 vintage port" as "good value". The 1975 made £110-£125 on February 5.

The possible declaration of another vintage — the 1985 — will have a firm effect on prices but this will not be known for several months.

It is likely that Customs and Excise will introduce a new drinks category. This will be for coolers and the like, which are so popular in North America and attract wine rates of



duty. A lower tax on those drinks of 2 to 7 per cent by volume alcohol could help certain brands.

Alastair Marshall, the fine wines manager of Adams of Southwold, expects all wines to rise in line with inflation. Adams' recent sale showed keen demand by investors, particularly for young claret of 1982 (such as Chateau Beycheville) and 1983.

John Thorogood, the wine buyer and director of Lay and Wheeler, of Colchester, expects 5p per bottle on all wines — still, sparkling and fortified.

He says there has been firm purchasing of 1978 and 1982 clarets since Christmas for laying down, and 1981 Bordeaux for early drinking.

He is visiting claret estates next week and is worried by the 15 per cent rise in real terms, although few top vineyards have yet revealed their 1986 prices. With large stocks of 1982, 1983 and 1985 in the United States, Mr Thorogood says a 20 per cent price fall for the last harvest is in order.

Mr Broadbent at Christie's says only 2.1 per cent of the Bordeaux stock sold in the January auction was to Americans and 75 per cent to UK buyers, but the proportions had changed to 12.5 per cent and 67 per cent by the fine

wine sale in early February. He makes particular mention of how Chateau Petrus, the outstanding Pomerol, has settled down in price to the lower and middle scale of Christie's estimates.

Key pointers in the next few weeks will be the wine auctions at Phillips in Park End Street, Oxford, on Tuesday with a good range and tasting from 11am, at Sotheby's on Wednesday of fine wines, port and cognac, and at Christie's on March 19 of Bordeaux and vintage port.

Final tip: with sparkling wines up 11.7 per cent on the moving annual total (and light wines up 7.1 per cent), the Chancellor may well increase champagne and other bubbly above inflation, as he has done markedly on past occasions.

## Portfolio - Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 25).

1	+7	+3	+5	+8	+2
2	+3	+6	+4	+4	+3
3	+3	+3	+4	+5	+4
4	+5	+5	+4	+8	+8
5	+3	+5	+5	+8	+1
6	+3	+5	+4	+6	+4
7	+3	+6	+8	+6	+3
8	+4	+2	+5	+5	+5
9	+2	+5	+5	+5	+2
10	+6	+5	+5	+5	+2
11	+5	+2	+3	+7	+4
12	+5	+4	+6	+6	+1
13	+3	+6	+5	+7	+4
14	+5	+3	+3	+5	+9
15	+2	+5	+5	+4	+3
16	+6	+5	+4	+8	+2
17	+4	+3	+3	+7	+1
18	+6	+2	+3	+8	+5
19	+2	+1	+5	+5	+4
20	+3	+5	+8	+5	+2
21	+6	+3	+3	+5	+1
22	+3	+6	+4	+5	+2
23	+4	+5	+3	+8	+4
24	+3	+4	+4	+6	+3
25	+5	+5	+5	+6	+4
26	+2	+2	+5	+5	+3
27	+7	+4	+6	+8	+3
28	+2	+7	+3	+5	+2
29	+4	+1	+3	+8	+2
30	+6	+5	+3	+7	+1
31	+3	+5	+6	+4	+2
32	+2	+1	+4	+7	+3
33	+3	+5	+3	+6	+8
34	+7	+3	+5	+8	+3
35	+5	+5	+7	+8	+2
36	+3	+3	+3	+7	+5
37	+4	+6	+4	+7	+3
38	+5	+7	+4	+4	+4
39	+8	+3	+3	+8	+2
40	+3	+5	+5	+8	+2
41	+5	+5	+6	+5	+2
42	+2	+5	+3	+8	+3
43	+6	+5	+3	+5	+2
44	+2	+2	+2	+5	+4

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75cl	Still light (e.g. Moser)	8.29
75cl	Still light (e.g. Rhine)	8.82
75cl	Still light (e.g. claret)	8.82
75cl	Sparkling (incl champagne)	14.55
75cl	Fortified (e.g. sherry)	15.11
75cl	Fortified (e.g. Madeira)	16.18
75cl	Fortified (e.g. port)	17.28
75cl	Fortified (e.g. port)	18.51

\* Not exceeding 18 per cent by volume alcohol  
\*\* Exceeding 18 per cent but not 22 per cent by volume alcohol  
In addition, Common Customs tariff on 21 per cent is liable on port and Madeira  
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- **Interest Rates.** Having fallen to 9.6% in 1986, they remain relatively high and offer scope for further significant reductions.
- **Increased Demand.** Low inflation and reduced taxes have led to a healthy rise in consumer spending of over 3%.

### STOCKMARKET BUOYANCY

With a sound economy and rising corporate profits (20% growth is our forecast for 1987), the French stockmarket is enjoying a new buoyancy. Generous tax incentives are encouraging a fast-growing level of private investment. There is also a dynamic "second market" for smaller companies, offering numerous special opportunities in new growth areas.

\* French Government



**Paris excites overseas investors**

The Paris stock market looks to be enjoying a new buoyancy, according to overseas investors. The French stock market is enjoying a new buoyancy, according to overseas investors. The French stock market is enjoying a new buoyancy, according to overseas investors.

CALL FREE SATURDAY/SUNDAY 10.00-4.00 - 0800 010 333

**INVEST NOW 50P-FIXED PRICE OFFER ENDS MARCH 13th.**

### YOUR ROUTE TO GROWTH

"France now offers what we consider is the most attractive investment opportunity of all European stockmarkets. The new MIM Britannia French Growth Trust aims for capital growth through a prudent mix of leading industrial and commercial companies, 'second market' shares and new issues.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

### INVEST NOW-FIXED PRICE OFFER-OPEN ALL WEEKEND

To invest, simply complete the application form below or call us on 0800 010 333. The call is free from anywhere in the UK and we are open on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

Units are available at the special fixed offer price of 50p, with a gross estimated initial yield of 0.75% p.a. The minimum investment is only £500.

### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

As an investment will be in units and certificates issued at 42 days after the date of issue, the units will be available for sale at the time of issue. The units will be available for sale at the time of issue. The units will be available for sale at the time of issue.

The Trust's distribution date is 1st April in respect of the period ending 31st March. The first distribution is scheduled for April 1987. In one term, the units will be available for sale at the time of issue.

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**MIM BRITANNIA**

TO MIM BRITANNIA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED, 74 76 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1JH

I wish to invest a minimum £500 in Accumulation Units of the MIM Britannia French Growth Trust at the fixed introductory offer price of 50p per unit valid until 13th March. A cheque is enclosed payable to MIM Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited.

☐ Please tick box if you are an existing MIM Britannia unitholder.

**MIM BRITANNIA FRENCH GROWTH TRUST**

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

First names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Shop around for health cover, but do it now

The Government has just allocated an extra £25 million to the National Health Service in an effort to cut hospital queues. But with almost 700,000 on the NHS waiting list many have turned to private medical insurance as the solution to the queue.

If you are tempted to do the same and you cannot get cover through your employer, the key words are "shop around" and "act soon".

Shop around because the difference in costs between insurers can amount to several hundred pounds - for very similar cover. Act soon because some insurers review their premiums twice a year and the annual review of health costs by the Department of Health and Social Security takes place in April.

Costs can also be substantially cut by taking advantage of one of the many discounts on offer.

For example, Access card-holders get a 15 per cent

**Little variation between insurers**

discount from PPP. Health First takes off 18 per cent for the self-employed, Crusader reduces premiums by 25 per cent for those taking out policies through Crusader agents, and paying through National Girobank will save you 10 per cent with BCWA.

You would be very unlucky not to qualify for some sort of discount with most insurers.

There are generally up to three levels of cover to choose from - London teaching hospital, provincial teaching hospital and provincial non-teaching hospital.

Premiums for some of the major insurers for the first two levels of cover are shown in the table. They include a 5 per cent discount for payment by direct debit, if applicable.

Cover does not vary much between the insurers - usually no annual maximum and up to £1,900 for anaesthetics and surgeons' fees for complex operations, for example. The exception is EHAS, where limits for cover are a little lower.

The higher costs of insurance in London reflect the higher accommodation charges there. A stay in the Humana Hospital Wellington,

for example, could set you back as much as £245 before treatment. The top NHS hospitals are not much cheaper - a night in a postgraduate teaching hospital costs £191.

The insurers provide lists of hospitals and their charges, so you can work out the right level of cover for you.

What are the advantages of going private? Not even the insurance companies claim that you get better treatment. What you do get is faster treatment for conditions considered non-urgent by the cash-limited NHS, such as hip replacements, and varicose veins.

According to BUPA, roughly 13 per cent of non-emergency surgery in Britain is performed in the independent sector, plus around a quarter of hip replacements.

Private treatment also usually has the advantage of a single room with more home comforts such as television, telephone and private bathroom. There is some choice of consultant and more say in when you go into hospital - particularly valuable for the self-employed.

Private medical insurance is not all-embracing, however. Exclusions include visits to your general practitioner, pregnancy and childbirth, routine dental treatment, most long-term geriatric care and any conditions that were known to exist (or in some cases showed possible symptoms) before the insurance was taken out.

Private medical care is also more readily available in some parts of the country than

others. There are many private hospitals in London, but in some areas of Scotland, for example, there are few private facilities. Check the situation in your area before paying out vast sums for insurance.

Note that some insurers offer special deals or facilities. For example, although most insurers increase premiums regularly with age, EHAS charges the same rate for all, making it good value for older people. Young people are at an advantage with BCWA which does not automatically increase premiums after the age of 30 for existing subscribers.

Crown Life is the only insurer to offer a no-claims discount. Everyone gets an initial 20 per cent on joining, which is included in the price shown in the table, and claim-free years can increase this up to a maximum of 40 per cent after five years.

PPP offers to reduce costs by 15 per cent if you accept

**Cash payment of £26 a night is made**

certain exclusions to your cover such as nursing at home and physiotherapy. A similar reduction is made if you agree to pay the first amount of any claim.

Two plans offer a cheaper alternative to the mainstream policies in the table. With PPP's Private Hospital Plan (or Retirement Plan for the retired) and Health First's Prompt Care Plan, insurance covers private medical treatment for conditions where the

YOU'D LIKE A PROMPT RESPONSE ON THE NHS? YOU MUST USE YOUR HERO SAVING TO...



NHS waiting list is longer than six weeks.

There is an annual limit to claims of £5,000 (doubled in special cases) and if treatment is carried out under the NHS a cash payment of £26 a night is made. Premiums for a single 29-year-old are £72.96 with Health First and £91.20 with PPP, while for a couple where the elder is 59, Health First charges £300.96 and PPP £296.40.

A new plan entered the market this week aimed specifically at women. Life Wise, the new policy from Health First, provides cover for private treatment of two conditions, breast and cervical cancer. Treatment can be carried out at any hospital - there are no regional variations in cover.

If breast cancer is diagnosed or a hysterectomy is carried out, a cash payment of £1,000 is made towards domestic help or whatever the insured desires. Screening is not included in the cover. The annual cost for a 40-year-old woman is £55 (£66 if she has not been screened during the past three years).

**Jane Alexander**

Company	London cover, annual premium			Provincial cover, annual premium		
	Single person, aged 25	Family of four, eldest 45	Couple, older 59	Single person, aged 25	Family of four, eldest 45	Couple, older 59
BCWA 0272 288742	£190.08	£580.88	£829.58	£146.08	£425.08	£657.88
EHAS 0832 5212	£338.72	£970.88	£975.61	£218.11	£581.86	£629.51
Crown Life 0492 5103	£238.80	£762.70	£721.40	£154.80	£482.10	£465.40
Crusader 0712 42424	£301.15	£827.15	£806.65	£208.83	£579.88	£551.23
EHAS 0832 75381	£291.60	£458.40	£458.40	£206.95	£385.65	£385.65
Health First 01-583 2550	£280.44	£979.44	£1,008.20	£184.88	£824.72	£888.12
PPP 0833 641155	£307.20	£978.00	£908.00	£183.80	£582.00	£541.20
WPA 0272 278241	£288.75	£717.00	£885.80	£186.80	£476.86	£585.05

### BAD ADVICE

If You Are Tired Of Paying For It, Check This Out.

Cambridge Fund Managers now offer a commission-free investment programme for growth portfolios of £20,000 or more. By introducing performance-related fees we ensure that you are only charged for above average results. For full details of this service please complete the coupon.



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Buy MONEY OBSERVER this month. It could well be the best investment you'll ever make.



NO DISCERNING INVESTOR SHOULD BE WITHOUT IT

## BES - What's in it for me?

When you read an advertisement like this one you almost certainly ask the questions:

"So what?" and "What's in it for me?"

Let us give you a bit of background and answer these questions.

The Business Expansion Scheme (BES) lets you, the investor, buy shares in a company and allows you to deduct the total cost of these shares right off the 10% of your taxable income. This produces a very considerable tax saving, particularly for the high rate taxpayer.

"What's the snag?"

The snag is that if you sell these shares within five years you have to give back the tax saved, so you are effectively locked in for this period. Also, the maximum on which you get tax relief is £40,000 p.a.

"Who buys BES?"

Well, obviously, high rate taxpayers are big buyers. Rather less obviously, BES investments can be used as a vehicle for moving money out of a private company into the hands of directors who

own the company. Pay yourself £40,000 p.a. more - tax shelter £40,000 by BES investments and in five years time (and annually thereafter) you may have £80,000 tax free (if things go reasonably) in your own pocket, not the company's. You can also up your pension contributions because you are paying yourself more - a double tax benefit!

"But I don't have my own company."

Alright, but you do probably pay tax (you wouldn't be reading this otherwise) and you probably don't like it. Our advice is, have a look at some BES investments like ours. We offer a sound selection and we aren't the leading BES sponsor for nothing. Ask to be put on our mailing list and you can judge for yourself from the prospectuses we

send you whether the myth that BES investments are high risk is true or not. We have several which we think are low risk and we never sponsor an issue where we don't think there is a good chance of doubling your gross investment in five years.

"Why is there so much press on BES at this time of year?"

That's your fault! The public unfortunately only focus on their tax position near the end of the tax year. Consequently, roughly 65% of BES money is invested in the last few weeks before April 5th. We offer a service to investors so we bring out a number of issues when they are wanted - which is now.

"Do I need to hurry?"

In a word - YES. Firstly, you should, if possible, invest before the

### OUR ISSUES COVER:

- Property
- Hotels
- Cable TV
- Royalty Exhibition
- Thames River Buses
- Pubs
- Ships

### ISSUES CURRENTLY OPEN:

- DIX Belgravia plc
- Thames Line plc
- Oak Hotels plc
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- Edinburgh Tankers plc
- Fast Forward Inns plc
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**JOHNSON FRY plc - the BES experts**

Princess House 36 Jermyn Street London SW1Y 6DT Telephone: 01-439 0924

Advertisement

March 17th Budget (in case the rules change) and, secondly, the best issues are often oversubscribed at this time of year.

"How do I get tax relief?"

Simple. Each company you invest in, after it has traded for four months, issues you with a Certificate which you send to your tax inspector and you should then get your full tax rebate.

If you pick a company to invest in which is already trading, you can get a Certificate almost instantly. No-one likes waiting for tax relief!

We hope the above information has gone some way to answering "So what?" What's in it for you is money, so if this doesn't interest you please don't call us. If it does, telephone us as soon as possible and ask us to send you details of our BES issues. You can write, but you may miss the Budget. We don't think it will make any major changes to BES but, regrettably, we are not the Chancellor. What we are, is good at our job.

Telephone us.

Branch unit trusts  
333%  
JOHNSON FRY



FAMILY MONEY/10

# Personal service that pays

## SELLING

If you are interested in adding to your income, direct selling is one option. SALLY WATTS explains

Direct selling is the distribution and marketing of goods direct to customers, usually in their own home. This provides a more personal service and allows customers to see products in the home setting.

You choose your own hours, which can be full-time or part-time, from as little as one half day or evening a week - selling often takes place in the evenings.

No special skills, qualifications or experience are required as training is provided. But it will help if you have enthusiasm, resilience, confidence, an interest in selling and a cheerful, outgoing personality.

Sellers, or agents, are continually in demand, partly because so many are needed by companies using this form of trading, but also because there is a high turnover as a number of people work only temporarily, to achieve a particular objective that their everyday budget will not meet - a special holiday, perhaps, or driving lessons or a word processor.

The Direct Selling Association was formed in 1965 to ensure consumer protection and ethical standards of selling among the 30 or so member companies, whose products include clothes, cosmetics, household goods, reference books and encyclopaedias, toys, hobby equipment, electrical appliances, diet plans, crystal and porcelain. Insurance and home improvements, however, are not included.

A recent survey by the association showed that in 1985 these companies achieved sales of £330 million through 260,000 agents.

Many sellers and managers are women, as the work fits in well with their home and family commitments.

Others who use direct selling to add to their finances temporarily include part-time

by the seller, or agent, and then have the opportunity of buying.

Another is person to person selling, which entails calling on people at home, by appointment if a fairly long demonstration is involved.

A third approach, selling to people at work, usually occurs in major cities such as London, where products include clothes, jewellery and snack meals. This, of course, means working during business hours, though not necessarily full-time.

There is also network marketing, which Richard Berry, the association's director-general, describes as a type

**£200 good average for a five-day week**

of franchising in which two people, such as a married couple, can use their respective skills in administration and selling to build up distribution networks.

This method may be better suited to those with some experience and proven entrepreneurial instinct.

The new direct seller, working one or two evenings a week, can expect to make about £40, while a successful full-time worker could reckon on a five-figure income; £200 is a good average for a five-day week. Payment is in the form of commission on sales, and some companies offer an incentive bonus too.

It is important to remember that, as most direct sellers are self-employed, you are responsible for your own National Insurance contributions and for declaring your earnings to the Inland Revenue. Records must be kept of income and outgoings. And as a self-employed person you are not entitled to paid holidays.

If you are unemployed, the money you earn will affect your unemployment and supplementary benefits. If you are in full-time employment, make sure there is no clause in your contract preventing you from taking on additional paid work.

The shorter working week, lack of jobs and early retirement schemes encourage some to embark on selling as a second career, for either the whole or part of their income. A number of teachers, incidentally, have given up their career in education in favour of selling.

Another category is that of young graduates and others who are unable to find employment, or perhaps have not finally decided on a career, or are not attracted by the prospect of regular hours in an office.

For some, selling or business may well become their first career. They get results and, at the same time, learn the arts of self-presentation and of handling time, gain business training and experience and are promoted step by step to senior management, with responsibility for an ever larger area.

Or they may become entrepreneurs in their own right. From a casual part-time job, designed initially to tide them over a frugal patch or support them while marking time, they can progress into the



The expert: Richard Berry, at the association's offices

£20,000-a-year bracket, working for their own organization or someone else's.

Direct selling can stimulate you to use your initiative and acquire the skills to develop a new main source of income. Or it can enable you to build

up more modest but useful supplementary funds, either temporary or permanent. The choice is yours.

Direct Selling Association, 44 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4JP (01-580-8433)

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For more information about Arkwright, the growth fund of leading stockbrokers Henry Cooke, Lumsden, telephone or send the coupon.

\*Offer to bid basis. Bid price as at 10 February 1987, 77p. Offer price 81p with yield of 1.49%.

\*Source: Financial Times 1 February 1987.

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Arkwright Fund sounds like a unit trust I should know more about. Please send me a copy of the latest report - and include an application form.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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TT 7/8

### Ask for a list of member companies

workers, pensioners, students (who find it useful to include work experience on their curriculum vitae when applying for jobs), freelance people needing to top up their income, and actors and musicians who are "resting".

One young man made enough from part-time selling to finance himself while setting up his own pop group. Some people use it to support themselves during business start-up.

A good way to begin is to contact the association for a list of member companies, then choose one with the products and type of selling you would prefer.

Selling takes several forms. One is party plan: a friend or neighbour is encouraged to host a party, and invitations make clear that the purpose is to see a product demonstrated

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Investment Managers Kleinwort Grieveson Investment Management

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To: CCL Unit Trusts Limited, FREEPOST (no stamp needed) 74 Shepherd's Bush Green, London, W12 8BR.

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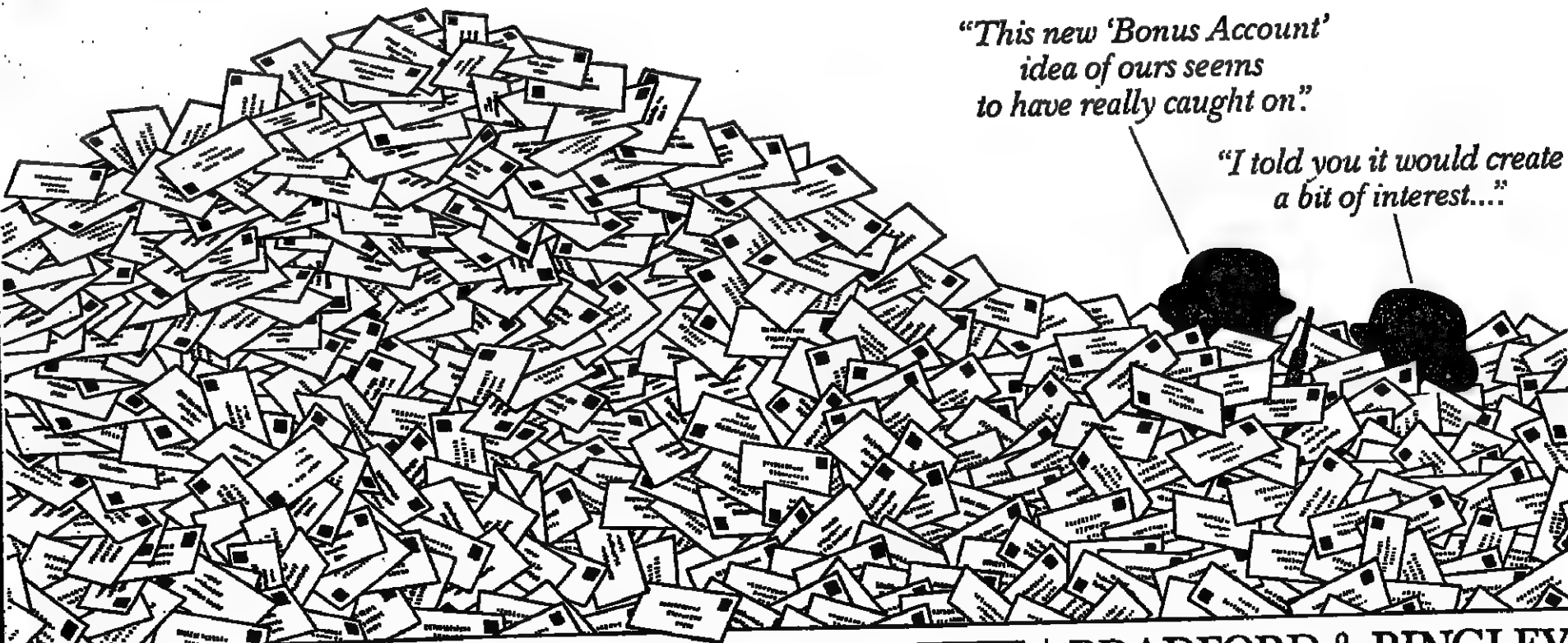
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Yet half of our competitors' funds in the survey amounted to less than £45,000 and one as little as £34,362.

Of course, the past cannot guarantee the future, but what better way is there of judging a company than by a record of such consistent excellence?

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Re: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Welton St, AYLESBURY, Bucks, MK21 7BR. (If welcome further details on your Self-Employed Pension Plans with: ☐ Annual/Variable Contributions; ☐ Monthly Contributions; ☐ Unit-linked based alternatives. (UK residents only)

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(This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe by any means.)

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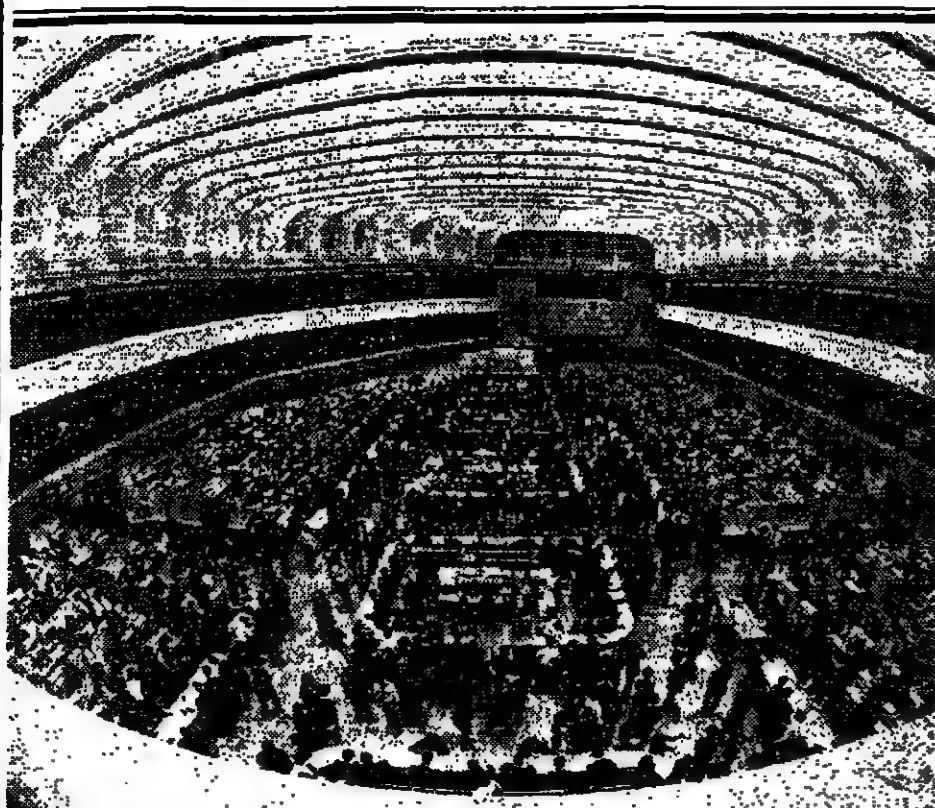
## Which BES company currently raising new capital:

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- ☐ Has just received planning consent for 25,000 sq ft of retailing space in London?
- ☐ Has been described as one of the best BES issues currently available?
- ☐ Has on its Board of Directors a former Inspector of Taxes, a Solicitor and two Chartered Accountants?
- ☐ Has already raised over £2½ million from the current issue?

If you are still looking for a BES Company in which to invest please telephone (0225) 833900 today for the correct answer.

Applications to subscribe will only be accepted on the terms of the prospectus and on completion of the application form attached thereto.

## FAMILY MONEY/11



Tokyo: the Japanese stock exchange has achieved a 15 per cent increase

## Money on the move

The major world stock markets continued to forge ahead last month. Across the Atlantic, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has risen nearly 20 per cent since the start of the year, while in the Far East the Tokyo New Stock Exchange index now stands 15 per cent higher.

The UK market, of course, has not missed out on the euphoria. The FT Actuaries All-Share Index is around 18 per cent up on its January 2 level.

A common factor behind all these market movements is the considerable amount of money internationally chasing a good home. Of particular importance recently have been the Japanese financial institutions, which are actively being encouraged at present to put money overseas to reduce the upward pressure on the yen. A good example of their buying power has been the recent flurry of activity in the major pharmaceutical stocks.

Against this happy background, all UK equity unit

trusts marked up price increases in February. Star performers were Provident Mutual's Equity Growth fund with an 18.9 per cent rise, while FS Assurance was close behind, with both its Service Companies and Balanced Growth trusts showing jumps of 16 per cent or more.

Even the UK gilt market was caught up in the excitement as investors looked for a cut in interest rates to precede or coincide with the Chancellor's Budget statement. Allied Dunbar Convertible & Gilt fund marked up a 9.5 per cent price improvement over the month, and Profit's similar portfolio was 8 per cent ahead.

Over on Wall Street, it has been several of the smaller company and technology stocks that have been setting the pace during the past few weeks. Target Technology, for instance, has registered a 28.7 per cent increase since the end of December, while the recently revamped GT American Special Situations fund is

just 1 per cent behind. Abbey US Emerging Companies was also in close contention with a 24 per cent rise over the past two months.

This is a welcome reversal of fortunes for these funds compared with their unit-holders' experiences last year. At the end of 1986, Target Technology stood at 90th out of 103 funds in the North American sector, and Abbey's portfolio was just two from bottom place.

Another area showing evidence of reviving fortunes in recent weeks has been Australia. The country's All Ordinaries Index during the past four months has achieved nearly half the gain that the market recorded during the whole of 1986.

Particularly strong have been the gold and energy sectors. The Japanese again have had a major part to play in this, being big buyers of bullion during the latter half of last year. Reflecting the sharp rise in gold mining shares, the offer price of Waverley Australian Gold has more than doubled over the six months, while M&G's primarily natural resource-based Australian portfolio has notched up a 63 per cent increase over the same period.

The brokers Kleinwort Oriveson believe the Australian market will continue to move ahead during 1987. "US dollar weakness, a firmer oil price and continuing demand for gold bullion," they comment, "should support the gold sector. Australian gold stocks remain cheap in global terms."

As for attraction of the country's industrial stocks "down under", much will depend on a continued recovery for the Australian dollar. The country's current account performance now appears to be on the mend, which should ease pressure on the currency to allow for a gradual easing of interest rates.

## The week's big LINK-up

This week saw the launch of the largest branded shared network of cash machines in the UK.

The significance is that any customer whose card carries a LINK symbol can now use it in every cash machine belonging to member institutions. So LINK cardholders are likely to find a cash machine much closer to home or their place of work. All machines will display the LINK symbol, which will be promoted through a major advertising campaign.

The principal members of LINK are Abbey National Building Society, Co-operative Bank, Girobank, Nationwide

Building Society and Funds Transfer Sharing Ltd. FTS is a consortium of financial institutions providing a centralized service for 15 building societies, plus card issuers such as American Express and Diners Club, and banks such as Citibank and Western Trust & Savings. More institutions are expected to join in the coming months.

LINK will provide a number of core services which are standard to all machines. These include cash withdrawal, a balance inquiry service and post-transaction receipt. Some members offer specific services to their own

customers, such as making deposits, ordering cheque books and paying bills.

Most machines will operate on a 24-hour basis and LINK says it has put emphasis on the importance of machines being in places where they can be of use to customers. Airports, railway stations and supermarkets are the most likely locations.

Together, LINK's member institutions have a customer base exceeding 15 million people, equivalent to more than one-third of the adult population of the UK.

## Law Report March 7 1987

### Apportioning damages between two independent tortfeasors

Fitzgerald v Lane and Another

Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Edward Eveleigh  
[Judgment March 6]

Where a plaintiff was injured on successive occasions by two tortfeasors, each acting independently, the second tortfeasor was as liable as the first tortfeasor in damages even though the plaintiff could not positively prove that the second tortfeasor caused or materially contributed to his injury.

If the plaintiff was as much to blame as each of the defendant for the negligent action which caused the injury, he could only recover 50 per cent of the damages which would then be apportioned equally between the two defendants.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing in part an appeal by the first defendant, Vernon Lane, and the second defendant, Pratulbhai Jayantibhai Patel, from a decision of Sir Douglas Frank, QC, sitting as a High Court Judge on July 9, 1986 on an action for damages brought by the plaintiff, Simon Peter Fitzgerald.

Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC and Mr Henry de Lotbiniere for the second defendant; Mr William Gage, QC and Mr Simon S. Brown for the first defendant; Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr Kieran May for the plaintiff.

SIR EDWARD EVELEIGH said that on March 21, 1983 the traffic at Fisher Hill Street was busy. The plaintiff, aged 22, crossed the road crossing showing green in the traffic's favour and was struck by the first defendant's Morris 1100 when he reached the centre of the road.

He was thrown up on to the bonnet and into contact with the windscreen which shattered and then he was propelled forward and on to the offside of the road where he was struck by the second defendant's car.

The plaintiff sustained multiple injuries and in particular injury to the neck which resulted in partial tetraplegia. The judge found that all three parties had been negligent. He assessed the total award of damages at £596,553. He held that both drivers were responsible for the plaintiff's tetraplegia.

He said that as to apportionment it was impossible to say that one of the parties was more or less to blame than the other and that the responsibility should be borne equally by all three. On the basis that they finding be ordered judgment to be entered for the plaintiff.

The brokers Kleinwort Oriveson believe the Australian market will continue to move ahead during 1987. "US dollar weakness, a firmer oil price and continuing demand for gold bullion," they comment, "should support the gold sector. Australian gold stocks remain cheap in global terms."

As for attraction of the country's industrial stocks "down under", much will depend on a continued recovery for the Australian dollar. The country's current account performance now appears to be on the mend, which should ease pressure on the currency to allow for a gradual easing of interest rates.

Where controlled drugs were left under the driver's seat of the defendant car he was liable to whom he intended to return them, he was guilty of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply it unlawfully to another, contrary to section 5(3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker, Mr Justice French and Mr Justice Mann) (1986) QB 48, who in December 1985 allowed an appeal by the defendant, Patrick Terrance Maginnis, against his conviction at Inner London Crown Court (Judge Pallinger and a jury) in June 1985.

Section 4(1) of the 1971 Act provides: "(1) Subject to any regulations under section 7 of this Act for the time being in force, it shall be unlawful for a person... (b) to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another."

Section 5 provides: "(1) Subject to any regulations under section 7 of this Act for the time being in force, it shall not be lawful for a person to have a controlled drug in his possession..."

(2) It is an offence for a person to have a controlled drug in his possession in contravention of subsection (1) above.

(3) It is an offence for a person to enable the recipient to have a controlled drug in his possession, whether lawfully or not, with intent to supply it to another in contravention of section 4(1) of this Act.

Mr Michael Kalisher, QC and Mr Michael Birmaham for the Crown; Mr Keith Stones and Mr Douglas Taylor for the defendant.

LORD KEITH said that the defendant had pleaded guilty to a count of unlawful possession of a controlled drug contrary to section 5(2) of the 1971 Act but not guilty to a count of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply it unlawfully to another contrary to section 5(3).

The trial had proceeded on the latter count. Evidence had been led by the prosecution to the effect that a package containing 227 grams of cannabis resin, a controlled drug having a street value of about £500, had been found under the driver's seat of the defendant's car after he had been arrested in connection with an alleged assault.

The defendant had sought to police officers that he did not deal in drugs and that the package had been left in the car on the previous evening by a friend. He had declined to name the friend and had said: "I expected him to come round and pick it up."

At the close of the prosecution case, counsel for the defendant had asked the judge to direct the jury that, if they accepted that

against each defendant for one-third of the plaintiff's damages. Both defendants now appealed. Each said that the judge was wrong in holding him to have been negligent. Alternatively, each said that the other defendant and the plaintiff should have been ordered to bear a greater share of the responsibility.

The second defendant further contended that the judge was wrong in holding that the impact with his car was a cause of the plaintiff's tetraplegia.

In his Lordship's view, the evidence supported the judge's conclusion on liability which should not be reversed. On the question of apportionment, the judge's finding indicated that he thought that each of the three parties was equally at fault.

Both being so, the correct form of the judgment should be "judgment for the plaintiff for 50 per cent of his claim against each defendant". There would then follow the order for contribution between the two defendants on a fifty-fifty basis.

In applying section 1(1) of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945 the court should consider the position between the plaintiff and each defendant separately: see *Mirallores v Abades* (1967) 1 AC 826.

His Lordship would allow the appeal of each of the defendants in relation to apportionment.

His Lordship considered the question of causation. The tetraplegia resulted from a fracture dislocation of the cervical spine of a type commonly caused by forward inflexion of the head.

Both doctors were questioned with a view to establishing which of the four stages of the accident was responsible for such a movement of the head. The doctors agreed that there were four possibilities, namely, the initial impact with the windscreen, impact with the ground and the impact with the second defendant's car.

Dr Parris gave evidence for the plaintiff and Dr Hopkins for the second defendant. When Dr Hopkins was asked his assessment of the probability of each of the four possibilities, he said that he placed 30 per cent on each of the first three and only 10 per cent on the last. However, he seemed to think that the last impact was less severe than the damage to the car would indicate. The judge did not accept his assessment.

At one point Dr Parris was persuaded to agree that the cause was the totality of the four possibilities, but that there was a cumulative effect. However, when asked to consider the

his intention had been merely to return the package of drugs to the person who had left it in the car, that would not have been an intent to supply it to another in contravention of section 4(1)(b) of the 1971 Act and he should therefore be acquitted on that count.

The judge had ruled that the intention to return the package to the person who had left it in the car did constitute the requisite intent for conviction, and the defendant had thereupon changed his plea on that count to one of guilty. He had been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

No question arose as to the possible application of any regulations made under section 7. The issue in the appeal was concerned with the meaning of the word "supply" in sections 4(1) and 5(3).

That was to be ascertained in the usual way by reference to the ordinary natural meaning of the word together with any assistance that might be afforded by the context.

The word "supply", in its ordinary natural meaning, conveyed the idea of furnishing or providing to another something that was wanted or required in order to meet the wants or requirements of that other. It connoted more than the mere transfer of physical control of some chattel or object from one person to another. No one would ordinarily say that to hand over something to a mere custodian was to supply him with it.

The additional concept was that of enabling the recipient to apply the thing handed over to purposes for which he desired or had a duty to apply it. In his Lordship's opinion, it was not a necessary element in the conception of "supply" that provision should be made out of the personal resources of the person who did the supplying.

Thus if an employee drew from his employer's store, materials or equipment that he required for the purposes of his work, it involved no straining of language to say that the storekeeper "supplied" him with those materials or that equipment, notwithstanding that they did not form part of the storekeeper's own resources and that he was merely the custodian of them.

His Lordship thought the same was true if it was the owner of the business who was drawing from his own storekeeper tools or materials that formed part of his own resources. The storekeeper could be said to be supplying him with what he needed.

If a trafficker in controlled drugs set up a store of those in the custody of a friend whom he thought unlikely to attract the suspicions of the police, and later drew on the store for the purposes of his trade, or for his own use, the custodian was, in his Lordship's opinion, rightly to be regarded as supplying him with drugs.

On the assumed facts of the present case (they had never been tested before the jury), the

matter again, he said that his conclusions were that the tetraplegia could have been caused by either collision or that both collisions could materially have contributed to the damage. The judge carefully considered the medical evidence and thought each of the three possibilities was equally probable and he was unable to distinguish between them. After careful consideration, his Lordship could not treat the judge to mean that all three combined to produce the injury by a cumulative effect. His Lordship had considered whether it was possible to reach his own conclusion as to the probable cause of the injury, but had concluded that he could not.

The plaintiff and the first defendant relied upon *McGhee v National Coal Board* (1973) 1 WLR 1. The facts of that case were very different. The facts in the present case. That case was concerned with the failure of the employer to alleviate a condition which was already a potential cause of dermatitis.

The court in the present case was concerned to determine whether the impact with the second defendant's car caused or contributed to the tetraplegia by inflicting the causative blow to an unbalanced neck, or by increasing the harmful consequence to an already injured neck.

However, the principle enunciated in *McGhee* had been taken one step further in *Wilsher v Essex Area Health Authority* (1987) 2 WLR 425.

In that case the plaintiff had been born prematurely, suffering from various illnesses, including oxygen deficiency. The plaintiff was negligently given excess oxygen and he claimed damages for an incurable condition of the retina resulting in near blindness. It was alleged, was caused or contributed by the excess oxygen.

However, oxygen was merely one of several different factors, any one of which could have caused or contributed to the eye condition. Medical evidence was unable to single out the responsible factor. The majority of the Court of Appeal held that the defendants were liable.

In his Lordship's opinion, the present case was covered by the decision in *Wilsher* and the second defendant was liable to the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Slade delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Gynason-Hicks; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Underwood & Co.

### Meaning of 'supply' of drugs belonging to another

Regina v Maginnis

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Goff of Chelvey  
[Speeches March 5]

Where controlled drugs were left under the driver's seat of the defendant car he was liable to whom he intended to return them, he was guilty of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply it unlawfully to another, contrary to section 5(3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker, Mr Justice French and Mr Justice Mann) (1986) QB 48, who in December 1985 allowed an appeal by the defendant, Patrick Terrance Maginnis, against his conviction at Inner London Crown Court (Judge Pallinger and a jury) in June 1985.

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(3) It is an offence for a person to enable the recipient to have a controlled drug in his possession, whether lawfully or not, with intent to supply it to another in contravention of section 4(1) of this Act.

Mr Michael Kalisher, QC and Mr Michael Birmaham for the Crown; Mr Keith Stones and Mr Douglas Taylor for the defendant.

LORD KEITH said that the defendant had pleaded guilty to a count of unlawful possession of a controlled drug contrary to section 5(2) of the 1971 Act but not guilty to a count of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply it unlawfully to another contrary to section 5(3).

The trial had proceeded on the latter count. Evidence had been led by the prosecution to the effect that a package containing 227 grams of cannabis resin, a controlled drug having a street value of about £500, had been found under the driver's seat of the defendant's car after he had been arrested in connection with an alleged assault.

The defendant had sought to police officers that he did not deal in drugs and that the package had been left in the car on the previous evening by a friend. He had declined to name the friend and had said: "I expected him to come round and pick it up."

At the close of the prosecution case, counsel for the defendant had asked the judge to direct the jury that, if they accepted that

his intention had been merely to return the package of drugs to the person who had left it in the car, that would not have been an intent to supply it to another in contravention of section 4(1)(b) of the 1971 Act and he should therefore be acquitted on that count.

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No question arose as to the possible application of any regulations made under section 7. The issue in the appeal was concerned with the meaning of the word "supply" in sections 4(1) and 5(3).

That was to be ascertained in the usual way by reference to the ordinary natural meaning of the word together with any assistance that might be afforded by the context.

The word "supply", in its ordinary natural meaning, conveyed the idea of furnishing or providing to another something that was wanted or required in order to meet the wants or requirements of that other. It connoted more than the mere transfer of physical control of some chattel or object from one person to another. No one would ordinarily say that to hand over something to a mere custodian was to supply him with it.

The additional concept was that of enabling the recipient to apply the thing handed over to purposes for which he desired or had a duty to apply it. In his Lordship's opinion, it was not a necessary element in the conception of "supply" that provision should be made out of the personal resources of the person who did the supplying.

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His Lordship thought the same was true if it was the owner of the business who was drawing from his own storekeeper tools or materials that formed part of his own resources. The storekeeper could be said to be supplying him with what he needed.

If a trafficker in controlled drugs set up a store of those in the custody of a friend whom he thought unlikely to attract the suspicions of the police, and later drew on the store for the purposes of his trade, or for his own use, the custodian was, in his Lordship's opinion, rightly to be regarded as supplying him with drugs.

On the assumed facts of the present case (they had never been tested before the jury), the

defendant had been made custodian of the drugs by his unnamed friend, who, having regard to the quantity of the drugs, might legitimately be inferred to have been a trader.

If on a later occasion the defendant had handed the drugs back to his friend, he would have done so in order to enable the friend to supply the drugs to another for the friend's own purposes. He would accordingly, in his Lordship's opinion, have supplied the drugs to his friend in contravention of section 4(1).

It followed that the defendant had been in possession of the drugs with the intention of handing them back to the friend when asked for by the latter, he had been in possession with intent to supply the drugs to another in contravention of section 4(1) and had thus been guilty under section 5(3).

His Lordship would allow the appeal, amend the question certified by the Court of Appeal to read: "Whether a person in unlawful possession of a controlled drug which has been deposited with him for safe keeping has the intent to supply that drug to another if his intention is to return the drug to the person who deposited it with him" and answer the question as so amended in the affirmative.

LORD BRANDON, LORD MACKAY and LORD OLIVER agreed.

LORD GOFF, dissenting, said that to him "supply", as used in relation to goods, connoted the idea of making goods available to another from resources other than those of the recipient. He did not feel able to say that either the delivery of goods by a depositor to a depositor or the redelivery of goods by a depositor to a depositor could sensibly be described as an act of supplying goods to another. He certainly could not conceive of himself using the word "supply" in that context in ordinary speech.

He would not describe the delivery by the depositor to the depositor as a supply of goods because the goods were not being made available to him but were rather being entrusted to him; and he would not describe the redelivery by the depositor to the depositor as a supply of goods because the goods were simply being returned to him rather than being made available to him from resources other than his own.

That conclusion seemed to his Lordship to accord with the evident purpose of section 5(3). That subsection created an offence evidently directed at those who were "pushing" controlled drugs.

To impose a meaning on "supply" that would have the effect that every depositor of controlled drugs would be in possession of them with intent to supply them to another could result in persons being convicted of that offence when they should only be convicted of unlawful possession.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police; Hamlyn Millard & Co. Woolwich.

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# Spray's call to GB squad may harm Southgate's cause

By Sydney Friskin

Mike Spray is the only Southgate player in a Great Britain squad of 27 for the Sultan Azlan Shah tournament at Ipoh, Malaysia, from April 14 to 20.

If Spray is selected for Great Britain, he will miss Southgate's European Cup qualifying tournament at home against the champion clubs of Finland and Poland on April 18 and 19. The winners of this contest will qualify for the B division of the European Cup competition at Swansea from June 5 to 8.

The rest of Southgate's international players are unavailable for Ipoh to help the club's two-fold ambition to win the Swansea tournament and the Hockey Association Cup. That would enable Southgate to return to the A division of the European Cup next season, which they won from 1976 to 1978.

On March 22, Southgate have a fourth round FA Cup match against Welling, from York, and are also well in the running for the premier division championship of the Pizza Express London League, where they

## England's players can emerge from shadows

By Joyce Whitehead

England, without the eight players who are channelling all their prowess into the Great Britain squad, have arranged the first international of the season against Wales at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff to be played this morning to avoid a clash with the rugby international.

With Lyndon Ricketts retired, the selectors have returned to Jane Swinerton, to spearhead the attack after a two-year absence. Rosemary Goodridge, who scored the winning goal in a 1-0 victory against the Americans in Kuala Lumpur, at last comes off the bench, while Margaret Burrows and Val Hallam, the goalkeepers who have lived in the shadows of Julie Cook, are called to show their ability, although Burrows is recovering from a broken toe.

### NORDIC SKIING

## Inspiring Spotswood

By Michael Coleman

Inspired by the aggressive John Spotswood, Britain made a clean sweep of the gold medals in the men's contest to win the Nations Cup at the Lowland Championships this week at Inver, West Germany.

Spotswood won the opening 30km classical, the first Britain to do so since the championships began in 1951, took a bronze in the 15km free-style and then set the team on the path to victory in the 4x10km free-style relay. His fast opening leg wrecked the hopes of teams from France and West Germany taking part in the parallel Criterium Cup contest.

Backing up Spotswood were Ron Howden, Canadian-born, although of Northern Ireland

origin, Andy Wylie, and Ewan Mackenzie. Howden's relay gold came on top of his 15km free-style win on Wednesday when he demolished the redoubtable Frenchman Eric Vuurs, the best performer at the Lowland Championships.

Colonel Johnny Walker, director of the British Nordic Ski Team, called the relay performance a "quantum leap" in a pre-Olympic year and attributed the success to the work being done by the new Swedish coach, Christer Eriksson, to the unexpected late sponsorship given by Samuel Montague and to the emergence of Spotswood as a respected name in any company.

RESULTS: 4x10km free-style, 1. Britain, 2. France, 3. Norway, 4. Sweden, 5. Finland, 6. West Germany, 7. Poland, 8. Czechoslovakia, 9. USSR, 10. Austria, 11. Yugoslavia, 12. East Germany, 13. USSR, 14. France, 15. USSR, 16. USSR, 17. USSR, 18. USSR, 19. USSR, 20. USSR, 21. USSR, 22. USSR, 23. USSR, 24. USSR, 25. USSR, 26. USSR, 27. USSR, 28. USSR, 29. USSR, 30. USSR, 31. USSR, 32. USSR, 33. USSR, 34. USSR, 35. USSR, 36. USSR, 37. USSR, 38. USSR, 39. USSR, 40. USSR, 41. USSR, 42. USSR, 43. USSR, 44. USSR, 45. USSR, 46. USSR, 47. USSR, 48. USSR, 49. USSR, 50. USSR, 51. USSR, 52. USSR, 53. USSR, 54. USSR, 55. USSR, 56. USSR, 57. USSR, 58. USSR, 59. USSR, 60. USSR, 61. USSR, 62. USSR, 63. USSR, 64. USSR, 65. USSR, 66. USSR, 67. USSR, 68. USSR, 69. USSR, 70. USSR, 71. USSR, 72. USSR, 73. USSR, 74. USSR, 75. USSR, 76. USSR, 77. USSR, 78. USSR, 79. USSR, 80. USSR, 81. USSR, 82. USSR, 83. USSR, 84. USSR, 85. USSR, 86. USSR, 87. USSR, 88. USSR, 89. USSR, 90. USSR, 91. USSR, 92. USSR, 93. 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## SATURDAY

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear and Paul Henderson

## SUNDAY

● Made in the 1960s, *The Power Game* (Channel 4, 9.00) reflects the meritocracy of the Wilson years. It concerns boardroom struggles in the civil engineering industry (try selling that as an idea now), new money and belligerent business styles. Seeing it again one is reminded of its limited scope: very few sets and exterior locations. Fat cats talking turkey is what it amounts to, and it works because script and acting stand up to scrutiny. Because there are so few trappings the series has not dated particularly, except perhaps for the credit in which British management is held, and unlike most series today it has no

**CHOICE**  
underlying message about law and order, and so forth.

● John Woods - *A Life* (Channel 4, 7.30pm) looks back over ninety years spent mostly in Kenya. Woods is not as flamboyant as Colonel Harry Hook, the Kenyan expatriate who was the subject of *40 Minutes* recently, but his story, which took him into the trenches, then into the flying corps, then out to Kenya, first as a soldier settler and then as a progressive teacher, is worth listening to.

Chris Petit

Susan Penhaligon and Bruce Robinson star in the compelling love story, *Private Road* (Ch4, 11.20pm)Steve McQueen and Natalie Wood star in *Love with the Proper Stranger* (Ch4, 10.20pm)

**CHOICE**

● David Attenborough's wildlife programmes are good and specific, but *The First Eden* (BBC2, 7.45) a new series about the Mediterranean, looks like an excuse for a gababout. We are treated to a sophisticated lantern lecture with no expense spared and complete with a crashingly obvious score: bring on the itecap music. Plunk! Plunk!

● The subject of *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.30pm) is V. S. Naipaul, a novelist who speaks as precisely as he writes. Naipaul traces his journey from his Caribbean origins to his present life in the

Avon valley. Naipaul is interesting on many subjects - gardens, medieval paintings, new forms of neuroses - and includes an excellent description of fiction.

● *Armchair Theatre*: Afternoon of a Nymph (Channel 4, 9.15pm) exposes the sleazy world of 1960s show business through a day in the life of a starlet. It was made in 1962 and its look owes a lot to a kind of low-budget cinema where resourcefulness and a lack of money helped to create a dynamic style. Ian Hendry, who failed to fulfil his early promise, plays a director of commercials.

C.P.

## BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University. Until 8.30.
- 8.30 The Hunter. (r) 8.35 Dogma and the Three Musketeers. (r)
- 9.00 Saturday Superstore. Managed by Mike Read. Among this morning's customers are Kenny Rogers and Kathy Sleafy, and Star Trek's Scotty, James Doohan.
- 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Athletics: The World Indoor Championships; 12.30 Football Focus; 12.50 News and weather; 1.00, 1.30, and 2.00 from Heydock; the 1.15 and 1.45 from Newbury; 2.10 and 4.00 Rugby Union: Wales v Cardiff (full coverage); France v Scotland (highlights); 4.35 Final score.
- 5.05 News with Jan Leeming 5.15 Sport/Regional news.
- 5.30 Perfect Strangers. Comedy series from the United States starring Bronson Pinchot. Jan'll fix it. Among those for whom Mr Saville fixed it is an 11-year-old with a fixation for bats. He is taken to a second-hand shop in Dorset where he spots six species. (Ceefax)
- 6.30 The Little and Large Show. Syd and Eddie's guests are Ross Davidson, Pat O'Connell, Edwards, Paul Levant and Ruby Turner. (Ceefax)
- 6.55 Bob's Full House. Bingo show presented by Bob Morrison. (Ceefax)
- 7.30 One By One. Part two of the ten programme series based on David Taylor's Zoo Vet books. Ronald Turner receives a call from Madrid Zoo where he meets the plant panda for the first time. (Ceefax)
- 8.20 The World Indoor Championships from Indianapolis.
- 9.55 News and sport. With Jan Leeming. Weather.
- 10.10 Countryfile. The two New York lady police officers become involved in a colleague's quest for revenge. (Ceefax)
- 11.00 Film: *Loophole* (1980) starring Albert Finney. Martin Mulligan. Thriller about an expert team of criminals who plan to raid a burglar-proof London holding for the world's most dangerous prisoners. Directed by John Guillermin.
- 12.40 Weather.

## BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University. Until 1.55.
- 2.05 Chess Classic. The first of a new series from Brussels in which Jeremy James and Bill Hartston eavesdrop on the thoughts of the masters, the afternoon Gary Kasparov and Viktor Korneichuk.
- 2.35 Film: *Triple Double* (1934) starring Bert Wheeler and Robert Woolsey. A comedy in which Willie and Elmer adopt a child with a penchant for breaking glass. Directed by George Stevens.
- 3.50 Film: *The Only Game in Town* (1958) starring Elizabeth Taylor and Warren Beatty. The far-from-smooth love story between a chorus girl and a gambler. Directed by George Stevens.
- 5.40 The Week in the Lords. Micro Live. Lesley Judd and Ian McNaught-Davis examine the use of computers and microelectronics in the world of medicine.
- 6.50 NewsView with Jan Leeming and Moira Stuart. Weather.
- 7.30 Dance Double Bill. Two ballets by Jiri Kylian, danced by members of the Netherlands Dance Theatre - *Torso*, a duet made in 1975 to music composed by Toru Takemitsu, danced by Sakurako Kuriyama and Leif Warren; and *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, a fantasy danced by Mary Knoben.
- 8.45 Saturday Review. Presented by Russell Davies. Architecture: the La Cornu exhibition at the Hayward Gallery reviewed by Norman Foster. Literature: Helen Birch examines the feminist thriller.
- 9.35 Film: *Fanny and Alexander* (1982) the second of Ingmar Bergman's four-part celebration of childhood, and after Oscar Ekdahl collapses and his family gather round his bedside, Alexander is forced to face the darker side of life for the first time.
- 10.55 *Sawdust and Timber* (1953) starring Harriet Anderson and Elsa Gribben. The story of an impoverished circus owner who is tempted to settle down to domestic bliss and respectability with his mistress who, in turn, decides to have an affair with an actor. Directed by Ingmar Bergman. English subtitles. Ends at 12.35.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.55 TV-am introduced by Richard Keys. Weather at 6.55; news at 7.00; sport at 7.40.
- 7.30 The *Wentworth* Club. No 73. Fun and games for the young. 11.00 The Outsiders. Australian drama series. (r)
- 12.00 News with Fiona Armstrong.
- 12.05 Saint and Grease. 12.30 Wrestling. Three bouts from Huddersfield Town to Las Vegas.
- 1.20 Chips. California Highway Patrol adventures 2.15 Please, Sir! Comedy series starring John Alderton. (r)
- 2.50 Film: *Crash Dive* (1943) starring Tyrone Power, Dana Andrews, and Anne Brown. Second World War drama about two officers serving on board a United States submarine who both love the same girl. Directed by Archie Mayo.
- 4.45 Results Service.
- 5.05 News. 5.15 Disney Presents. The story of The Tortoise and the Hare. (r)
- 5.15 Connections. The A-Team. The regular quartet help a wild West Show owner. (r)
- 6.45 Bobby Dwyer's TV Weekly. Comedy series starring Richard O'Sullivan. (r)
- 7.45 The Price is Right. Game show.
- 8.45 News and sport.
- 9.00 Big Night Preview. Aspal and Company. The Crowther, Tom Jones, and Julie Andrews.
- 9.50 World Championship Boxing. The WBC Lightweight Championship bout between Dennis Andries and Tommy Hearn. The commentator at the Colosseum, in Rome, is Jim Rees.
- 10.40 LWT News headlines followed by The Big Match: Brian Moore introduces highlights from a top game in London.
- 11.25 Film: *Barling Road* (1982) starring Paul Bartel and Mary Woronof. A black comedy about a young couple whose decision to leave degenerate Hollywood and go and live in the country, leads to a series of bizarre murders. Directed by Paul Bartel.
- 1.00 *Glastonbury*. Award in concert. Ends at 1.35.

## CHANNEL 4

- 8.35 A Question of Economics. Part 18. (r) 9.50 4 What It's Worth. (r) 10.20 The Living Body. The digestion process. (r) 10.45 The World - A Television History. AD100-AD800 (r) 11.15 Mountbatten. Programme one of a 12-part series of personal reminiscences recalled by Lord Mountbatten. (r) 12.15 Lyn Marchant's *Everyday Yogs*. (r) 11.30 Take Nobody's Word For It. (r) 10.55 Buongiorno Italia. Lesson 20. (r) 11.20 Lyn Marchant's *Everyday Yogs*. (r) 11.30 Parent Programme. (r) 11.45 Teletext. (r) 12.10 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. Richard O'Sullivan makes bank beds 12.35 Farming. Can farmers afford to pay for the advice and research services they have given free for the past four decades? 12.55 Weather. Suburban War Week. What Price Peace in the Schools? With Kenneth Baker, Fred Jarvis, David Hart, John Pearmann, and others. 2.00 EastEnders. (r) (Ceefax)
- 3.00 Match of the Day Live. Watford v Everton.
- 4.55 Tom and Jerry. Cartoon. The quest is in the chair. 5.05 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 6.55 News with Jan Leeming.
- 6.40 Songs of Praise from Llandudno. (Ceefax)
- 7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. Grown men are reduced to tears when they decide to take driving lessons. (Ceefax)
- 7.45 International Athletics. The World Indoor Championships from Indianapolis.
- 8.40 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 9.50 The World of U2. Two young people meet in a crowded dole queue and explore the world of the unemployed.
- 11.35 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 12.00 Weather.

## BBC 1

- 6.45 Open University. Until 8.30.
- 8.55 Play School 9.15 Signs of Hope. The first of four service for Lent. From St John's Church, Taunton.
- 10.00 Asian Magazine. Salman Rushdie talk about his Nicaragua visit which inspired his book *The Jaguar Smile* 10.30 Take Nobody's Word For It. (r) 10.55 Buongiorno Italia. Lesson 20. (r) 11.20 Lyn Marchant's *Everyday Yogs*. (r) 11.30 Parent Programme. (r) 11.45 Teletext. (r) 12.10 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. Richard O'Sullivan makes bank beds 12.35 Farming. Can farmers afford to pay for the advice and research services they have given free for the past four decades? 12.55 Weather. Suburban War Week. What Price Peace in the Schools? With Kenneth Baker, Fred Jarvis, David Hart, John Pearmann, and others. 2.00 EastEnders. (r) (Ceefax)
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- 7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. Grown men are reduced to tears when they decide to take driving lessons. (Ceefax)
- 7.45 International Athletics. The World Indoor Championships from Indianapolis.
- 8.40 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 9.50 The World of U2. Two young people meet in a crowded dole queue and explore the world of the unemployed.
- 11.35 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 12.00 Weather.

## BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University. Until 1.55.
- 2.00 International Rugby Special. Highlights of Wales and England; and France and Scotland.
- 3.00 Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House (1948) starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy. A comedy about an advertising executive and his wife, who are dissatisfied with their cramped New York apartment. Directed by H.C. Potter.
- 4.30 Music in Camera. The first of three programmes in which the musical directors of three different ensembles give personal views of landmarks of composition in their field over the past half century. This afternoon Terry Edwards, with the London Sinfonietta, and Electric Phoenix.
- 5.18 Thinking About Moscow. Gorbachev's dream for Russia is in the chair. 5.45 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 6.00 The Money Programme. Includes a report on the TGWU's drive to recruit part-timers.
- 7.18 On the House. Do-it-yourself series. The First Edition. Part one of David Attenborough's story of the Mediterranean. (see Choice)
- 8.40 International Darts. England v Scotland in the Haywards Foods British Championship. Did you see it? 9.00 The World of U2. Two young people meet in a crowded dole queue and explore the world of the unemployed.
- 11.35 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 12.00 Weather.

## ITV/LONDON

- 6.55 TV-am begins with Sunday Comment; 7.00 Are You Awake Yet? 7.45 Woe Extra.
- 8.30 David Frost on Sunday. Among the guests is Kenneth Baker.
- 9.25 Wake Up London. (r) 9.30 World Championship Boxing. The WBC/WBA Heavyweight bout between Mike Tyson and James Smith. 10.30 No 73.
- 11.00 Morning Worship from St Mary's Whitkirk, Leeds. 11.45 The Old Testament in Art. The first of a new series of art inspired by the Old Testament.
- 12.00 Weekend World. What will the Gorbachev offer on nuclear arms cuts mean for the security of Western Europe? Sir Geoffrey Howe opens a 6.00 Police Five 1.15 The Smurfs. (r)
- 1.30 Getting On. The team that replaced Tony Van den Bergh's hip on television. The first of a new series. 2.00 LWT News headlines followed by The Business Programme. Dermot Mulroney returns to a new role between Brynmor, 40 per cent owned by BA, and British Midland, over who should use the new Gatwick airport.
- 6.15 International Badminton. The semifinals and final of the British Airways Masters Men's Doubles. The World at War. Part 14 of the history of the Second World War focuses on Burma 1942-1944. Narrated by Basil Henson. (r) (Ceefax)
- 6.15 A-Z of C&W with Hank Wanzel. Part three of Hank Wanzel's five-part programme on the story of country music, featuring artists and songs beginning with the letters from G to L.
- 6.15 *Armchair Theatre*: Afternoon of a Nymph, by Robert Muller. Janet Munro and Ian Hendry star in this story of a starlet's day in the life of a film starlet. (r) (see Choice)
- 6.45 *Crazy Like a Fox*. Harry thinks he saw a murder, but no-one believes him.
- 8.45 *Clive James on Television*. A travel through the more bizarre of the world's television programmes. (r)
- 9.30 The South Bank Show. The life and times of V.S. Naipaul. (see Choice)
- 11.30 LWT News headlines followed by *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 12.00 Weather.

## CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 Sunday East presented by Mimi Bess. This week the accent is on hockey. Followed by Deewarain. Drama serial set in a Pakistani village.
- 10.00 The World This Week. A look behind the headlines of Beirut. (r)
- 11.00 *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 11.30 The Waltons. Episode 20. 12.30 The Tube includes Grace Jones, Robert Cray, and Shelley Long. (r)
- 2.00 Rebecca. The Little Chimney Sweep, and Hand in Hand. Programmes from the young hearing impaired. (Oracle)
- 2.30 Film: *Hell's Angels* (1930) starring Jean Harlow, John Barrymore, and James Hall. First World War drama about three ace airmen. Directed by Howard Hughes.
- 4.45 World of Animation. 5.00 Robinson Crusoe. Robert Robinson meets Neil Dunn, Tom Sharpe, and others. 5.30 News summary and weather followed by The Business Programme. Dermot Mulroney returns to a new role between Brynmor, 40 per cent owned by BA, and British Midland, over who should use the new Gatwick airport.
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- 11.30 LWT News headlines followed by *Barling Road*. Richard O'Sullivan. (Ceefax)
- 12.00 Weather.

## Radio 1

- On medium wave. Stereo on VHF (see below). News on the half-hour until 12.30pm, then 2.00, 3.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 12.00 and 1.00pm. 6.00am Mark Page 8.00 Adrian John 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Adrian Johns 2.00 The Stereo Session 3.00-3.30 Rebel Yell New series with John Peel 4.00-5.00 The New American Chart 5.30-5.50 Simon Mayo 6.00-6.30 The Midweek Runners Show with Pete Dinklage 6.30-7.00 The New American Chart 7.30-7.50 The New American Chart 8.00-8.30 The New American Chart 8.30-9.00 The New American Chart 9.00-9.30 The New American Chart 9.30-10.00 The New American Chart 10.00-10.30 The New American Chart 10.30-11.00 The New American Chart 11.00-11.30 The New American Chart 11.30-12.00 The New American Chart 12.00-12.30 The New American Chart 12.30-1.00 The New American Chart 1.00-1.30 The New American Chart 1.30-2.00 The New American Chart 2.00-2.30 The New American Chart 2.30-3.00 The New American Chart 3.00-3.30 The New American Chart 3.30-4.00 The New American Chart 4.00-4.30 The New American Chart 4.30-5.00 The 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# SATURDAY

March 7-13, 1987

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainments and the arts

## Kicking out the kitsch in sink

Fashions in kitchen style are moving as fast as hemlines, as next week's Ideal Home Exhibition will reveal. Bryan Appleyard charts a new mood

Kitchen style is on the turn again. Bavarian baroque with its heavy wooden mouldings has died. Rustic romances have been consigned to the waste disposal unit of history. Even sleek polyester is no longer a power in the land. The kitchen has become a machine for cooking in.

Large, inverted stainless steel funnels are sprouting above increasingly elaborate hobs. Steel rods descend from the ceiling to support mid-air trays, hooks or rails from which are suspended radish flowerers, cleavers and woks in careless but functional profusion.

Kitchens are becoming kitchens again. The trick now is to flaunt your foody know-how, insolently rejecting the standards of so-called good design and all such impediments. It is a fashion which, on recent form, should have about 10 years of life in it. By then it will be being sold by door-to-door salesmen. But in the style-centres of Cologne, Knightsbridge or Milan they will have long since moved on to the next phase.

That's the way it is in the kitchen game. In the past 50 years that room has become the focus of more consumer and marketing interest than any other. Once the housewife showed you the treasures of her parlour; now they flaunt the wonders of their kitchen.

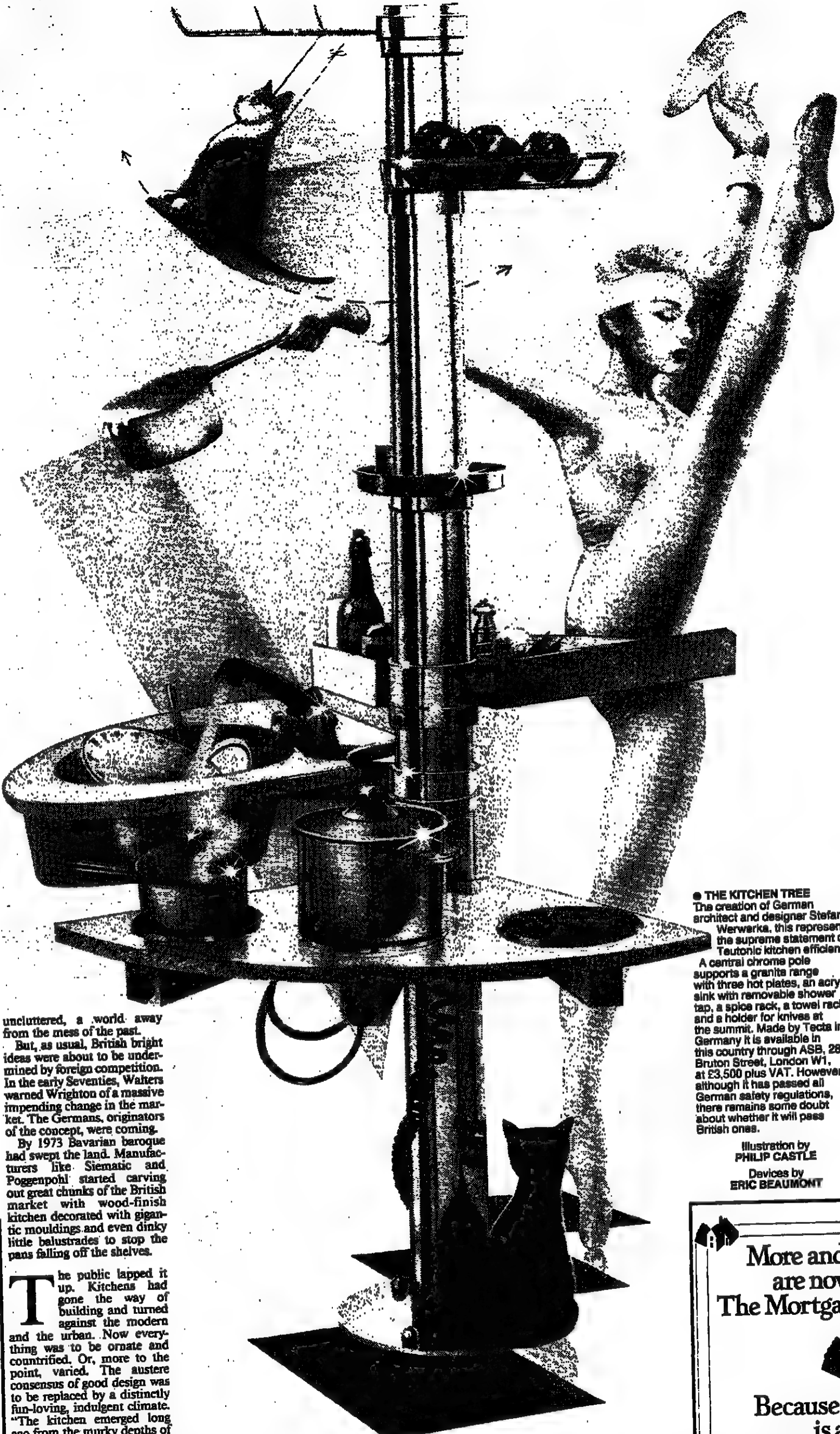
It all began with the Nazis. In Germany before the war they worked on plans covering every aspect of the perfect domestic life. They wanted Aryan warriors on the front line and good women at home. But they wanted technology

for both and the idea of the fitted kitchen was born. The kitchen was to be the *hausfrau's* personal lab. It is an ideal still alive in the hearts of kitchen planners. The U-shaped, enfolded, womb-like kitchen remains the most popular, with its implication that it is for one person at a time—mother—while the rest of the family waits outside. A womb with a queue.

During the war the German sense that kitchen design was somehow linked to national destiny was taken up by the British. They too had become keen on the idea of building a better world. An austere publication put out by the Ascor water heater company in 1943 pointed out that a generation of women had seen the benefits of industrial design. In wartime factories and would now want the same at home.

But the public was not ready. Then, at the Festival of Britain in 1951, "modular concept" kitchens were displayed. They were, however, still architectural ideas rather than realizable schemes for the average home. And it was not to be until 1957 that the furniture company Wrighton employed Nigel Walters, one of the Festival kitchen designers, to design a range of fitted units.

Walters came up with a slick, modernist look using a polyester surface and the market began to take off. Through the Sixties the smooth laminated plastic look dominated the market while the units themselves steadily increased in sophistication. It was a time when the uncompromisingly modern was a popular ideal—kitchens were to be tidy,



## Modes for meals

● **BAVARIAN BAROQUE**  
Wooden and weighty. Deep mouldings and just about every other carpentry detail taken to excess. Conceived in defiance of the old standards of sleek, good design. Mainly for people who fear that others may not realize how rich they are—though, of course, they are not.

● **LOW-TECH LAMINATES**  
Date back to the Festival of Britain and the pioneering fitted kitchens of the Fifties. Generally smooth and shiny and, most frequently, white, although pastels have been appearing lately in deference to a less idealistic, more vulgar age.

● **TASTEFUL TEUTONIC**  
Having massacred our industry with Bavarian Baroque, the Germans have now drawn back from their earlier excesses. Mouldings have retreated and cornices become more discreet. Raw, massively-grained woodwork has given way to more subtle linings.

● **PHONEY FRENCH**  
A permanent, elusive ideal in the kitchen world. Francophilia long ago reached epidemic proportions in the design fraternity as did its sister disease, Anglophobia. In kitchen terms it can mean anything from rural minimalism with a scrubbed table and a stove to Empire-style cast iron range. All in all it is safe to call anything French if you feel the need.

● **HI-TECH**  
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appliances and all. And you have to make sure your Zanussi fridge-freezer will take your Poggenpohl doors.

At Harrods the average package now sells at £8,000 and the most expensive at around £25,000. With this sort of outlay kitchen planners have become a priesthood ministering to the second biggest spending decision for the average family after the house.

Stylistically everything is now available. Both cheap and expensive kitchens are offered in styles from super-cottagey with leaded lights on the front of cupboards to smooth, clinical whiteness.

And overall the key marketing battle has been won. The kitchen is now perceived as the centre of the home and people feel able to spend accordingly. The U-shaped womb fights it out with the more feminist straight-line which implies that everybody mucks in together.

An industry this big, however, cannot just sit back. More objects have to be sold into the home. But now that

94 per cent of the population have a fridge, 55 per cent a freezer and 80 per cent a washing machine, it is difficult to know where to go. And over-the-top American innovations like built-in barbecues or trash-compactors evoke giggles from the perennially enthusiastic kitchen planners.

So there has to be another stylistic wave and this is what has now been glimpsed at key furniture fairs. All kitchens from the most grotesque Bavarian to the sleekest modern have been intended to hide things away—to find ways of concealing or disposing of the mere mess of cookery. But now, in the words of one Italian design magazine, "what will die is a system that hides food and creates a bleak room like a laboratory. In its place would be created a kitchen in which to rediscover lost household rituals, where objects can once again express their individuality."

In other words the fitted

A case (or two) for Sunday trading—where to browse and buy wine at a discount, page 41

Bridge	43	Opera	44
Chess	43	Photography	44
Concerts	44	Radio	44
Crossword	43	Review	43
Dance	44	Rock & Jazz	44
Drink	41	Television	44
Eating Out	40	Times Cook	40
Film	44	Travel	38
Galleries	44	TV films	44



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Continued on page 48



Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

# Art behind the curtain

Sarah Jane Checkland peeps at the real Russia with the other 'harmless cranks' on her deluxe tour

Even before we touched down, the BA steward was grumbling about Russia. "We need visas simply to land, and even then we're not allowed off the plane. Rather you than me." The three-hour wait in customs seemed to confirm the idiom of spending a holiday behind the Iron Curtain, especially when we witnessed an old codger being forced to peel off layer upon layer of clothing until an arsenal of ball-point pens and chewing gum had been unearthed.

But, at the same time, chinks were evident in this nation's armour. For all the paraphernalia of military uniforms and angled mirrors, the passport inspectors had the innocent, innocuous look of country boys doing their national service. The 45-minute wait between body and luggage scans gave ample time for any transfer of unauthorized books or weapons from bag to person. As our tatty bus trundled into Moscow, we found the Red carpet treatment not unwelcome.

The Russian approach to foreigners involves an alternation of thin-lipped intransigence (as when they refuse to let you inside churches) and heart-lifting warmth (when elderly women fold you affectionately in their arms). Our group of 12 had a specific interest in medieval Russia, so we had the advantage of being categorized as harmless cranks. When our leader, icon dealer and specialist Richard Temple, effused about the spirituality of a particular work, or when our Canadian Russian Orthodox deacon began trying out the acoustics in a de-sanctified church, the guides tolerated their antics with a smile.

Another advantage was simply that our specialist itinerary — Moscow, Pskov, Leningrad, Novgorod, Vladimir and Suzdal — took us along far more colourful tracks than a regular tour, with its unrelenting diet of city tours and visits to Parks of Economic Achievements.

Even so, we were still cocooned from reality. It is difficult to appreciate the drudgery in queuing for transport and food as you pass by in the comfort of your coach. We travelled deluxe which, for an additional £150 for two weeks, was essential if we were to get reasonable food and service.

Our first Moscow hotel, the National, was built at the turn of the century, and its vast art nouveau bedroom suites — with mock-French empire furniture — were reminiscent of some 1930s Hollywood movie.

But outside were visions of the Sixties: back-combed, but somewhat faded Brigitte Bardot lookalikes, filling their nails in time to tinny pop music. Downstairs, the bar had the clandestine atmosphere of the speakeasy, with the chance of conversation with Russian tars (paid in the form of groceries).

Our first venture out next morning was to the symbolic centre of Russia, both past and present, the Kremlin. Once inside the massive gates, the message was loud and clear and anything but homely. This is power architecture, from the high, crenellated walls to the largest drain pipes I have ever seen. In the armoury chamber, recently reopened after five years of refurbishment, we saw chess vestments woven in gold with pearls. Ivan the Terrible's crown, armour for the horses — which included ram horns for the head, three-foot tassels for the neck and jewel-encrusted stirrups the size of coal-scuttles.

Most memorable of all was the silver throne of Peter the Great, with room for him and his half-wit brother (or God's Fool, as such people were called) and a hole through which the real boss, sister Sophia, could speak. The tour continued around the



Power past and present: the minarets of Red Square (above left), queuing to buy jeans in GUM (above right), Lenin's tomb (below left) and a gold icon in the Cathedral of the Archangel (below right)



Kremlin cathedrals. There are no fewer than nine of them, built mainly for the use of the tsars. We saw the three largest, all of which face dramatically on to a large square, their gold domes accentuated by the grey sky. It was strange to wander within such spiritual ostentation (iconostases and wall paintings up to the roof) and to sense the hollowness which results from desanctification by the state. As our Canadian deacon said: "It's like arriving in the house of an old friend, to find he has departed."

We did see some churches still in use, however. The first was on a daytrip to Zagorsk monastery, outside Moscow. It originated around the home of St Sergius, the 14th-century monk who became one of Russia's favourite saints. Here, in a breathtaking complex of churches and belltowers in various styles from austere 15th century to ludicrously lavish 19th, we put on headscarves to join the congregations and watched pilgrims waiting in line to kiss the glass-fronted tomb of St Sergius himself.

As we emerged from incense, candles and chanting we were surprised to see a British bishop in familiar purple robes conversing with the monks in their high black hats.

This was also our first sustained sight of indigenous icons. Here, in the monastery museum, we learned of the difference between the pragmatic Soviet approach, which considers icons all the more 'interesting' the more narrative detail they contain, and the view of our guide who believed that detail is mere indulgence on the part of the holy men who painted them, to be condemned. Gradually we learned the history of the Russian Orthodox church — how, after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, Moscow regarded itself as the third Rome, and as a result produced some of its most powerful art.

While travelling and studying, we also accumulated some unforgettable images of Russia today. In the Kremlin at Pskov, while we stood listening to a history of Ivan the Terrible's interest in this rich place, what we were really straining to hear were the real-life shrieks and groans of gypsies, attending the funeral of their leader in the church.

In Perchersky monastery, right in the heart of the countryside near Pskov, we saw the predictable sights of Holy Well and monastic buildings. But we also glimpsed a present-day "God's Fool", wearing a Robin Hood hat and skipping along merrily, swinging what looked like conkers on the end of strings.



Lenin's tomb (below left) and a gold icon in the Cathedral of the Archangel (below right)



However, our fate inevitably was to remain separate from the people. Towns close down in the evenings, so there is no chance to mingle. Although we were given as much free time as we wanted, apart from occasional browses in places like the extraordinary GUM State Department store on Red Square, we remained reluctantly in the hands of Intourist.

We got closest to what felt like real Russia at our final destination, Suzdal. Set in meadows, it is a medieval town intact, with hundreds of churches and monasteries. Here, the quality of food reached its peak in a converted monastery we stayed in, with rough cheese, sour cream and bilberry jam for breakfast. And in a long walk through the town at dusk, the sense of beauty and history became overwhelming. That night, three of us got lost and went to the wrong monastery. Going through the gates into the courtyard and seeing no tourist chalets there, it was as though we had finally arrived at our destination: Russia's past.

## TRAVEL NOTES

Fortieth tours to Russia with a medieval interest: The Temple Gallery, 4 Yeomans Row, London SW1 (01-889 6622), two-week tour as above, planned for autumn 1987, price approx £1,200. Sotheby's, 35 New Bond St, London W1 (01-493 8000), 10 days planned for spring '87: Moscow, Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod, price approx £1,000. Serenissima, 21 Dorset St, London NW1 (01-730 9841), 10 days from June 7 and Sept 13 1987: "The Golden Circle" of Moscow, Zagorsk, Pskov, Suzdal, 2205 (plus single room supplement £205). Swan Hallen, 287 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-831 1616), 16 days May '87, Moscow, Leningrad, £1,265.

## OUTINGS

### Trains and boats and antiques

**BRITISH CRAFT MARKET:** Ceramics, enamels, knitwear, sculpture, stained glass, toys, leather and lace. Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street, London SW1. Today 10.30am-6pm. Admission free.

**SAILBOAT '87 - THE RYA DINGHY SHOW:** Family weekend for those who enjoy messing about in small boats. Free sailing tuition and advice for newcomers, competitions, races, "personality" appearances. Refreshments. Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledington Road, London SE20 (01-778 0131). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. Adult £3, child £1, car park £1.

**12TH ANNUAL EAST WILSHAMS MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION:** Railway models, layouts in different scales and gauges, trade and information stands. The Oval Hall, Victoria Leisure Centre, Bath Street, Sneyton, Nottingham. Today, 9.30am-7.30pm, tomorrow 10am-5.30pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

**ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR:** Largest fair of its kind in London with over 500 stalls selling all manner of antiques and collectable items. Refreshments and licensed bar throughout. Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (01-883 8477). Tomorrow 12 noon-6pm. Adult £1.50, accompanied child free.

**A NIGHT AND DAY OF 100 PARTIES:** Mammouth 24-hour fundraising event in aid of the British Heart Foundation with numerous public and private parties throughout the day and night at Henley-on-Thames. Humphrey Lytton and his Band at the Town Hall this evening, sponsored disco at Benson's Nightclub, open day at the fire station, karate demonstrations and much more.

**SIAMSA COIS UISCÉ - LONDON FESTIVAL OF IRISH CULTURE:** Opens tomorrow and runs until March 31. Traditional music, singing and dancing will perform in the foyer between 12 noon-2pm to get you in the mood, and Siamsa Tire — the acclaimed National Folk Theatre of Ireland — give their first performance this evening at 8pm. Wembley Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (01-868 1176). Tomorrow, Siamsa Tire, adult £4, child £3 from Box Office.

**USSR GYMNASTICS & SPORTS ACROBATICS DISPLAYS:** 32 top Soviet gymnasts and acrobats, including the three world champions — Oksana Omelantchik, Elena Shushunova and Yuri Korolev — plus many other world-famous names in the Women's Rhythmic Gymnastics and Sports Acrobatics sections. Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex (01-902 1234). Today, tomorrow 2pm. £3.50 tickets only — check availability with box office.

Judy Froshaug

## IN THE GARDEN



First cousin: the oxlip Primula elatior with its small flowers

### A primrose twice blessed

A Suffolk friend used to give me a bunch of primroses at Christmas, even sending them by post when I moved to London. I thought at first that these blooms were unnaturally early but I now have some of that stock growing in my own garden, saved by my friend from the bulldozer. After five years the plants are well established, and this year I too had blooms in December. They vanished under the snow and reappeared this week, still with the short stems characteristic of early season flowers.

While one welcomes the outdoors, it is the generous flush of flowers about Easter time which most rejoices the heart. Primrose flowers, the palest of yellows, their petals so delicate minnows wash them into translucence, rise from a plant which is a great survivor, hardy through the fiercest winters. I would never plant any coloured polyanthus in semi-natural woodland conditions: they are gaudy and clashing where there should be harmony. To capture those first pulsings of spring, nothing but the native primrose will do.

The other natural woodland primrose of exquisite beauty is the primrose's close cousin, the oxlip *Primula elatior*. Its flowers are like those of the primrose but they are smaller and hang several on one stem, all looking the same way. Sometimes oxlips are sold with primroses with instructions to plant them together. It is true that they like the same conditions, rich soil and partial shade, but if planted side-by-side they hybridize furiously. After a crop of interesting crosses over the first few years, you may well find only primroses left.

Double primroses retain the delicacy of the native plant, unlike the brash, floury-petalled, large-flowered polyanthus type. In the past, double primroses were occasionally found in woodland and brought into cultivation, and wonders are still to be found in the forest. Only a few years ago a forester in some Welsh woods found a pretty double primrose of pale creamy pink, which eventually found its way to Adrian Bloom at the Bressingham Gardens nursery. He managed to increase it and brought it to the public in 1984 under the variety name Sue Jervis.

It is possible to buy several named varieties of double primrose, but it is wise not to act on impulse because they should be planted with care. They are too pretty to hide away or to risk losing. Double primroses need a rich, moist soil with plenty of humus in it, and very much prefer an organic fertilizer such as blood, fish and bone. I speak from bitter experience in saying they will not tolerate sun or harsh wind. Plant several "cheek-by-jowl" and dead-head immediately after they have flowered, when they should be fed up with a fine mixture of well-rotted manure and peat (with added grit to deter slugs). The plants should then be put on good growth and be ready for dividing up into several plantlets which, if tenderly treated, should flower the following year. As the plants are expensive to buy, this is a useful and frugal skill. (Send SAE to Brenda Hyatt, 1 Toddington Crescent, Bluebell Hill, near Chatham, Kent ME5 9QT, for her list of primrose cultivars).

Francesca Greenoak

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Check all pot plants — in greenhouse or on windowills — for aphids. Spray with a soft soap, or drench if you need something stronger.
- Mow lawns if grass is growing except in very wet weather. Keep the blades set high.
- Keep your greenhouse well aired in mild and muggy weather.
- Pick out seedlings into pots as soon as possible as they quickly begin to suffer if left in seed trays.
- Plant Jerusalem artichokes and (in the south) early potatoes.

- Keep notes of everything you do and plant in the garden: Our Garden Book is a most attractive garden planner and record book (published by Eyebright Publications, £7.95).

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DRINK

# A case (or two) for Sunday trading

Buying wine by the case saves time and money (usually at least 10 per cent). But if you can't be at home in the week to take deliveries, and hate the Saturday crush, Sundays are ideal for tasting and choosing at leisure, with your car boot comfortably near. Jane MacQuitty lists the best of the Sunday openers



ian selection is a must, so too are their party wines. Tricky parking behind 153-155 is the only drawback.

## MAJESTIC WINE WAREHOUSES

20 branches (12 in London; others include Birmingham, Bristol, Swindon and Cambridge). Open Sundays 10am-6pm/7pm except Albion Wharf, Hester Road, London SW11 (01-223 2983) which is open Sundays 10am-10pm. Highly successful cases-only wine warehouse group whose delicious wines, amazingly low prices, easy parking and taste-before-you-buy policy appear unstoppable. Star wines: Claret, Paul Jaboulet's Rhône, French regional wines.

## THRESHERS

825 branches nationwide. Open Sundays noon-2pm and 7-9.30pm. Not a lot to get worked up about but Threshers wine list has definitely improved over the last year or so and the occasional starchy wine is now within their customer grasp. The classic regions are the place to find these such as Bordeaux, Alsace, and the Loire, plus Tuscan wines.

## BARNES WINE SHOP

51 High Street, Barnes. London SW13 (01-878 8643). Open Sunday noon-2pm. Rushed SW13-ers merely dash into this traditional, stylish and welcoming place for the odd Sunday lunch bottle. But smart south of the river residents make use of Sunday's calm to indulge in a lengthy browse round one of Britain's finest wine shops. Choose from a wonderful array of reasonably priced Australian, California and pudding wines plus some excellent Bordeaux and Burgundy. All bottles are the latest speciality.

## UNWINS

All 279 branches in the South-east and including Norwich open Sundays noon-2pm and 7.30-9.30pm. Still one of the most expensive and uninspiring wine chains in the country. Claret, the Rhône, California and their Romantic sherries offer the odd treat.

## ODDBINS

85 branches from Cornwall to the Highlands, including Liverpool, Manchester, Swansea and Cardiff. Most open Sundays noon-2pm and 7-9.30pm. Knowledgeable staff, low prices, bare floorboards and wooden bins sum up Oddbins' successful no-frills approach to wine retailing. Oddbins' Italian and ever-expanding Australian section should not be missed. Nor should their champagne, malt whisky or sherry.

## GOUGH BROS

115 branches in London and the South; also at Agnews in the Newcastle area. Most open Sundays noon-2pm and 7-9.30pm. Gough Bros are owned by Seagrams and their new much-improved wine selection is now bought by the canny Oddbins wine buyers.

## VICTORIA WINE COMPANY

281 branches nationwide open on Sundays mostly from noon-2pm and 5-7pm. Stylish new shop fronts and interiors have helped drag this high street chain into the 1980s. But the unbelievably dreary new Grants of St James's Selection does not inspire confidence. As always, to get the best from Vic Wine badger your local branch

manager for the latest list and order the often starchy "Cellar Selection".

## ARTHUR RACKHAM

Nine branches in London and Surrey, open on Sunday from noon-2pm and 7-9pm. Discerning wine buffs are unlikely to have visited these small, bottle-bulging, still family-owned shops. But the range of champagnes plus some decent young claret and Australian wines, coupled with the odd good Alsace, Loire and Spanish offering, just about make Rackham's a worthwhile Sunday outing.

## CULLENS

80 licensed branches, open Sundays noon-2pm and 7-9pm. Seduced by smart new jade-green shop fronts, backed up by bright well-organized designer-built interiors, the Cullens customers are now offered only a limited range of wines. Les Amis du Vin buy Cullens wines so expect to see lots of their own-label fodder here. Opt instead for classy Australian wines such as those from Yalumba and Rothbury Estate.

## BIBENDUM

113 Regents Park Road, London NW1 (01-586 9761). Open Sunday 11am-6pm. Once Chalk Farm Garage, this bright spacious cases-only wine

emporium is London's most upmarket wine warehouse. No Liebfraumilch here, just pukka informed service including free London delivery seven days a week, purchases loaded into cars *et al.* An exciting French regional, Italian and Australian range plus good Rhône and sound Bordeaux all help to slake the thirsts of trendy NW1-ers.

## BUCKINGHAMS

98 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 (01-727 5149) and 6 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-584 1450). Open from noon-2pm and 7-9pm on Sundays. Boldly and not altogether accurately billed as "London's finest wine merchant", Buckingham's neat, tidy, traditional bin-lined shops encourage relaxed Sunday browsing. Prices are on the higher side but knowledgeable service compensates. Stick principally to classics such as fine claret and port plus some good California and Australian offerings.

## WIZARD WINE

Unit 2, 226 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey (01-686 5703) and 95-97 Hawks Road, Kingston, Surrey (01-546 9764). Open Sundays 10am-5pm. Deep in the heart of urban Sunday DIY land, whacky Wizard Wine was founded by an ex-Majestic man. Wizard's monthly tastings, case-only sales, easy car parking plus taste before you buy are all

part of the Majestic method, as is the wide-ranging list that is especially good on French country wines plus those of California and Spain.

## DEL MONICO

64 Old Compton Street, London W1 (01-437 2738/8269). Open noon-2pm Sunday. This Soho great-grand-daddy of today's cut-price wine merchants was founded in 1925 and is still going strong with Irving Bernard at the helm. No wine hangs around for long in this cramped cluttered shop so nip along now for some Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay bargains plus Rioja and port.

## WHYNOT WINE WAREHOUSES

Head office 061 439 8969 or 0625 527471. Open Sundays 11am-6pm (Shipley branch open Sundays from April). Not quite the Majestic of the north but just about the only place in Wilmanslow, Stockport, Altrincham and Lytham St Anne's where you can buy a decent Sunday bottle. Whynot's friendly service and enthusiastic un-hidebound approach obviously go down well in the North as does their modestly-priced list with its useful range of good lesser clarets, Latour burgundy, Guigal Rhône plus an equally worthy vintage champagne, Rioja and New World selection.

## LA VIGNERONNE

105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-589 6113). Open Sunday noon-2pm and 7-9.30pm. Every inch of this small Kensington shop is crammed with bottles and cases. It might look chaotic but the eclectic well-chosen range is extraordinarily good and even devoted customers will never get bored. Everything from Alsace to South America.

## SHERSTON WINE COMPANY

Head Office 1 Church Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (0666 840644) and seven other branches including Great Yarmouth, St Albans and Wallington, Surrey. Open Sundays noon-2pm. Sherston are Spanish specialists first and foremost, especially in the wines of Rioja and Penedes. But recently they have branched out heavily into French country wines plus those of the New World. A franchise operation.

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# CHESS

## Short's shrift for a pawn

This week I continue my retrospective analysis of the dramatic Kasparov - Short match for The London Docklands Trophy.

In a fearfully complex situation Short could have held on but, in trying to grab a stray Black Rook, he overlooked a cunning switchback manoeuvre by Kasparov's Queen and dark-squared Bishop. After that, Nigel's position became a smoking ruin, full of weak points.

White: Nigel Short; Black: Gary Kasparov. Game 2. Sicilian Defence, Docklands Trophy.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Bc5 4 Bxc6 Bxc6 5 d4 exd4 6 Nxd4 Nf6 7 Nc3 Ne7 8 Bg5 O-O 9 Bxf6 Qxf6 10 e5 Nd5 11 f4 Nc6 12 Qd2 Nxe5 13 fxe5 Qe7 14 Qd3 Qe6 15 Qd2 Qe7 16 Qd3 Qe6 17 Qd2 Qe7 18 Qd3 Qe6 19 Qd2 Qe7 20 Qd3 Qe6 21 Qd2 Qe7 22 Qd3 Qe6 23 Qd2 Qe7 24 Qd3 Qe6 25 Qd2 Qe7 26 Qd3 Qe6 27 Qd2 Qe7 28 Qd3 Qe6 29 Qd2 Qe7 30 Qd3 Qe6 31 Qd2 Qe7 32 Qd3 Qe6 33 Qd2 Qe7 34 Qd3 Qe6 35 Qd2 Qe7 36 Qd3 Qe6 37 Qd2 Qe7 38 Qd3 Qe6 39 Qd2 Qe7 40 Qd3 Qe6 41 Qd2 Qe7 42 Qd3 Qe6 43 Qd2 Qe7 44 Qd3 Qe6 45 Qd2 Qe7 46 Qd3 Qe6 47 Qd2 Qe7 48 Qd3 Qe6 49 Qd2 Qe7 50 Qd3 Qe6 51 Qd2 Qe7 52 Qd3 Qe6 53 Qd2 Qe7 54 Qd3 Qe6 55 Qd2 Qe7 56 Qd3 Qe6 57 Qd2 Qe7 58 Qd3 Qe6 59 Qd2 Qe7 60 Qd3 Qe6 61 Qd2 Qe7 62 Qd3 Qe6 63 Qd2 Qe7 64 Qd3 Qe6 65 Qd2 Qe7 66 Qd3 Qe6 67 Qd2 Qe7 68 Qd3 Qe6 69 Qd2 Qe7 70 Qd3 Qe6 71 Qd2 Qe7 72 Qd3 Qe6 73 Qd2 Qe7 74 Qd3 Qe6 75 Qd2 Qe7 76 Qd3 Qe6 77 Qd2 Qe7 78 Qd3 Qe6 79 Qd2 Qe7 80 Qd3 Qe6 81 Qd2 Qe7 82 Qd3 Qe6 83 Qd2 Qe7 84 Qd3 Qe6 85 Qd2 Qe7 86 Qd3 Qe6 87 Qd2 Qe7 88 Qd3 Qe6 89 Qd2 Qe7 90 Qd3 Qe6 91 Qd2 Qe7 92 Qd3 Qe6 93 Qd2 Qe7 94 Qd3 Qe6 95 Qd2 Qe7 96 Qd3 Qe6 97 Qd2 Qe7 98 Qd3 Qe6 99 Qd2 Qe7 100 Qd3 Qe6

Very ambitious indeed. The sudden attack on b5 seems to force 13... bxa4 when Black's whole Queen's side pawn constellation is broken up. Nevertheless, the ever-alert Kasparov finds an ingenious counter. The orthodox move for Short at move 13 would have been 13... Qd2 to be followed by 0-0-0.

A fascinating idea. Kasparov sacrifices a pawn to deflect White from his own attacking plans.

Regaining the pawn in as much as 25 bxc3 fails to 25...

Rxb1. Short should now play cautiously with 25 Qc2. Instead, Nigel spots a chance to pounce on Gary's stray Rook on h2, but in so doing he plunges headlong into a deadly and cunning trap.

Only now did Short realize the deep point of Kasparov's idea. If 26 Bxh2 Black has the amazing switchback manoeuvre 26... Bb4+ 27 Kc1 Qxh2 with a winning attack, such as 28 Bf1 Bc3+ 29 Kd1 (if 29 Bxc3? Rxb1+ wins) 29... Bxc3 30 Kc1 Qc5 and 31 bxc3 fails to... Qxc3+. This fierce line, where the White King is hunted all along the back rank, was demonstrated by Kasparov himself immediately after the game.

A pawn ahead, Gary has no objection to trading Queens.

The third game will be screened on Channel 4 at 6.30pm today. Also today at 2.05pm the BBC2 chess series starts. Games from the important Kasparov v Sokolov match in Linares will be appearing in the news pages of *The Times* during the week.

White resigns.

White resigns. The third game will be screened on Channel 4 at 6.30pm today. Also today at 2.05pm the BBC2 chess series starts. Games from the important Kasparov v Sokolov match in Linares will be appearing in the news pages of *The Times* during the week.

Raymond Keene

# BRIDGE

## Sun on the cards

There is a wide choice for those who wish to combine their holidays with bridge. Sun-seekers can choose from a variety of exotic resorts like Casablanca, Paris, Deauville and Luxembourg. Bargain-hunters can brave the spartan amenities of the eastern Mediterranean, or the jostle of the Costa Brava.

Alternatively, for those who wish to combine bridge with a cruise, both Cunard and P&O provide special facilities. There are also fly/cruises which start in America and sail to the Caribbean or even Alaska.

A recent cruise on the *Canberra* provided astonishing evidence of the bridge players' keenness. While most of the passengers basked in the sun, the players were far too absorbed in the game.

The rubber bridge was notable for the cosmopolitan mixture of its members. On one occasion, a Pole, a Belgian and a Russian did battle with the chairman of the St James's Bridge Club.

East-West game. Dealer East.

♠ J104  
♥ J7  
♦ AK54  
♣ KJ3  
♠ 7  
♥ AK109643  
♦ J1032  
♣ 8  
♠ AK552  
♥ 7  
♦ 8  
♣ A109764

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1200

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, March 12. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, March 14.

ACROSS  
1 Deflect (6)  
4 Green woodpecker (6)  
7 Male bird (4)  
8 Marital infidelity (8)  
9 Post Epiphany Monday (8,6)  
15 Light carriage (6)  
16 Wonder (6)  
17 Historically (12)  
23 Foolish talk (8)  
24 Hot springs germ (4)  
25 Came to pass (6)  
26 Feel repentant (6)  
DOWN  
1 Gambler's cube (4)  
2 Be indecisive (9)  
3 Strum (5)  
4 Sweet Sanguine vineyard (5)  
5 Japanese hard quilt (5)  
6 Grub (5)  
10 Overturn (5)  
11 Japan's third city (5)  
12 Film negative chemical (10)  
13 Christmas season (4)  
14 North Briton (4)  
18 Cut in two (3)  
19 Cider fruit (5)  
20 Counterfeit (5)  
21 Escapade (5)  
22 Apartment (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1199

ACROSS: 1 Gazump 4 Gospel 7 Exon 8 War weary 9 Skylark 10 Albert 11 Rotten borough 15 Burst 16 Valcain 20 Inimical 21 Fuse 22 Puzzle 23 Hiatu  
DOWN: 1 Greaser 2 Zloty 3 Power 4 Gore 5 Platoon 6 Loyal 10 Albert 11 Strut 13 Tiptop 14 Hunters 15 Blimp 17 Allah 18 Crust 19 Acre.

The winners of prize concise No 1194 are: Chris Perry, 11 Windsor Drive, Wigan, Lancs; and Anne Brockington, Cowley Road, Oxford.

SOLUTION TO NO 1194 (last Saturday's Prize Concise)

ACROSS: 1 Cavour 4 Medico 7 Thug 8 Intrigue 9 White 10er 15 Awaiken 16 Agenda 17 Cheddar Gorge 23 Macaroon 24 Fare 25 Advent 26 Eraser  
DOWN: 1 Cute 2 Vouchsafe 3 Trice 4 Mire 5 Drift 6 Coupe 10 Trend 11 Anglo 12 Land glass 13 Real 14 Tale 18 Hoard 19 Drape 20 Abort 21 Genre 22 Tear.

Name  
Address

# REVIEW

## Weed - all about it

### PAPERBACKS

How to Stop Smoking by Simon Morgan (Virgin, £2.95); The Easy Way to Stop Smoking by Allen Carr (Penguin, £2.95)

Admirers of Bernard Levin will know that he is nearly always right about nearly everything, but that, in the small number of cases in which he is wrong, he is so with the kind of purblind obtuseness which, if it were manifested by anyone equally stiff-necked about one of the things he is right about, would bring Levin's righteous and corrosive scorn down upon the offender's head.

Foremost among these few of his blind spots is his failure to recognize the absolute necessity to encourage as many smokers as possible to stop. The reasons for this necessity need not be rehearsed here: their force is known to all - even, deep down, I am persuaded, to Mr Levin himself, who has pertinently written, "Who, enjoying in more than common measure something that is readily available, does not wish others to enjoy it too?" (*Enthusiasms*, chapter 1). Few enjoyments are as readily available as those inherent in being an ex-smoker.

In furtherance of the worthy aim of recruiting as many as possible to this enviable status, next Wednesday has been designated National Non-Smoking Day and these two books have been rushed out to mark the occasion.

A bit less rush might have been advantageous. Both Carr and Morgan are ex-smokers who are now professional encouragers of others to give up - as, respectively, a consultant and a tutor on the Habitbreaker course. But neither, frankly, is much of a writer.

Time should have been found to edit out at least the worst of Carr's repetitions, tautologies, catchphrases, inconsistencies in punctuation, irrelevant analogies, mixed



The obits said he was charming, and had a way with evening dress. But in fact he was one of the greatest Hollywood actors; the best interpreter of intelligent conversation, his disdain always visible alongside the perfect manners. This publicity still of him and Irene Dunne was for *The Awful Truth*, and is in Richard Schickel's *Cary Grant*, published next week by Pavilion Books (£8.95)

metaphors and uncontrolled similes, and to ensure that the Appendix A, promised by Morgan actually appeared.

These things matter, not just intrinsically, but also because they are liable to vitiate the books' most worthy message.

Morgan's is an actual course-book - a chapter a week for seven weeks and the habit kicked, if instructions

are followed and assignments completed, after chapter five. The tone is the heavy-hectoring helpfulness of Miss Manners, augmented with pictures of anthropomorphic ciggies; diction and constructions tend to the mid-Atlantic.

Carr's book is less structured. He deals in advantages and disadvantages in a tone supposed to be one of sweet reason. But, not least on

account of its stylistic horrors, I was less than convinced of his book's potential efficacy.

Doubtless, though, there are those who will find one or other of these books an encouragement to saying yes to freedom from their slavery. If either succeeds in its purpose, then its faults won't matter a damn.

Michael Grosvenor Myer

## Traum and dream

### CLASSICAL RECORDS

clarity of line with lightly suspended breath moving through each vowel keeps "Allerseelen" and "Morgen" on the move, without reducing the shadow of anxiety which hovers behind them. It's good, too, to hear "Zueignung" so firmly anchored in a richly coloured accompaniment from Fassbaender's pianist, Irwin Gage. His playing adds considerably to the pleasure of this recital.

If Fassbaender provides a generous helping of Germanic *Traum*, then Ely Ameling's latest collection is the stuff of which dreams are made. In Debussy's "Beau soir" and Faure's "Après un rêve", the recording acoustic melts of text and musical phrase into

this air. And there is also the challenge of new discovery: Ameling and the ever-engaging Rodolf Jansen take on three austere little Hans Andersen songs by Honegger, and Roussel's strange, oblique piece of chinoiserie, "Réponse d'une épouse sage", among several rarities in this recital. I was greatly impressed by the young Salzburg Hagen Quartet when I heard them at the Hohenems Festival last summer. They take little for granted, even in the most standard quartet repertoire: theirs is a fresh sound, constantly exploring. Their first Schubert recording (DG 419 171-2) is one I still frequently play; their latest, an imaginative twinning of Dvorak's "American" Quartet with Kodaly's Second, has no less distinction.

They cast the Dvorak down to size - this is a fine-weave, minimalist reading - and delight in timbre-testing and split-second repartee in the prismatic synopses and modal melodies of Kodaly. Five of Dvorak's "Cypresses", little tone poems he arranged from a sequence of love songs, are added as encores.

Hilary Finch

## A light is dimmed

### ROCK RECORDS

Tom Verlaine: *Flash Light* (Fontana SFLP1)  
The Comsat Angels: *Chasing Shadows* (Island P33955)  
Siouxsie and the Banshees: *Through the Looking Glass* (Wonderland SHELPA)

Despite the far-reaching influence of Tom Verlaine's work - both with CBGB new-wave Television in the 1970s and throughout his subsequent solo career - he has been damned to relative obscurity by the stubborn opacity of his music.

On *Flash Light* he continues to utilize the populist format of two guitars, bass and drums but in such a way as to defy categorization and to deflect attention from the traditional hard-rocking appeal of such a line-up.

His voice seems to be the missing link between Neil Young and Jim Kerr. In "Bomb" he sings, over skittish and unhappy guitar forays, about the joys of disintegration. Hard, straining riffs combine like building blocks to form the verses of "Cry Mercy, Judge" but fall short of providing a chorus while "The Scientist Writes a Letter" stops and starts with an uncertainty that feels as painful as the dilemma of the song's protagonist.

It is a bumpy ride and, on a prosaic level, difficult to be sure of exactly what it is he is getting at. Alienation? Sublimation? Or is he simply



Directionless: Tom Verlaine

covering the tracks of a rather directionless trail? The Comsat Angels still boast the same four-piece line-up that they started with in 1979, but on *Chasing Shadows* their mordant post-punk delivery has become focused and streamlined, not least by the influence of the album's executive producer, Robert Palmer, on whose recommendation the group was recently added to the Island label.

The eight original songs carry an eerie sense of surface calm - the relaxed Doors-style piano on "The Cutting Edge", the spacy bass riff on

"The Thought That Counts" - but speak of far greater tensions beneath the surface. "The Lost Continent" and "Flying Dreams" are propelled by romping tom-tom patterns and the sinister undercurrents lend a distinct edge to a well-rounded production.

As usual, Siouxsie and The Banshees are perfectly in step with the times and, with rock currently leaving like the snake trying to eat its own tail, what better moment to release a collection of cover versions, Siouxsie's very own *Pin-Ups*?

Through the Looking Glass succeeds because, like Bowie, Siouxsie has the force of personality as a performer to stamp her mark on other people's material without feeling the need to dislocate the original arrangements too dramatically. She comes unstocked with an over-ambitious chamber-rock version of Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit", but breathes sparkling new life into the Doors' "You're Lost Little Girl" and Iggy Pop's "Lizard Girl" and Iggy Pop's "Lizard Girl" and Iggy Pop's "Lizard Girl". If anything, she improves on Bryan Ferry's airbrushed mystique with her version of Roxy Music's "Sea Breezes".

The closing track is "Little Johnny Jewel". Tom Verlaine's first single with Television and still a minor masterpiece of sparse rhythms, guitar and elusive meaning.

David Sinclair

Break In by Dick Francis (Pan, £2.95)

There's more to Dick Francis than violent action among horsey people. He tells us precisely what these people are feeling. It's impossible for them to open their mouths at all without talking "bitterly", "calmly", "dubiously", or "fervently", as the author recycles dozens of such words from his 24 books.

Sometimes he allows characters merely to smile or nod. Smiling is often done "wryly", "sourly", "aridly", or "twistedly". Nodding is performed "heavily", "benignly", or "gloomily". One character is even said to give "half a nod".

The following sentences from *Break In*, printed completely out of context, make up a cameo worthy of Barbara Cartland.

The princess was waiting with her usual lambent patina. He gave a critical glance from above a large moustache and long front teeth. He shook his head physically.

"Mmm," he said dryly. Disaster dragged at her eyes. Her animation had gone into eclipse. She was concentrating on an inner scenario of obvious doom.

The silence was short and stark.

"Stay," she said briefly. She could not disguise an upsurge of hope.

"Wow," she said thoughtfully.

I've seen nothing like that since I came across Stephen Leacock's *Literary Lapses*. But even Leacock didn't invent a heroine with a long neck leading to hidden breasts like apples on a slender stem.

When this grotesque-sounding person stripped off for the hero, he was not really surprised by her appearance. She was, as he had expected, flat and round.

Still, Francis does let his hero meet one exciting female. She skittered about restlessly, swearing copiously and rolling her eyes.

But that was no lady. That was his horse.

Michael Grosvenor Myer

Kenneth Robinson

# THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

## Sing-song ding-dong

A war of attrition between innovative producers and singers favouring more traditional concepts continues to sweep European opera houses. Following my reports of scandals in Zurich and Milan, news of the latest offensive comes from Hamburg.

Plans for a new production of *Rigoletto* had to be scrapped in rehearsals when Italian baritone Leo Nucci announced he would not sing the title role in the manner required by West German director Johannes Schaaf.

Conductor Giuseppe Sinopoli tried in vain to mediate, and the management was forced to import a production from Nuremberg. Magnanimous in victory, Nucci offered several performances without payment to compensate for the rumpus. Schaaf beat a hasty retreat, saying he would try out his concept elsewhere.

● In a rare burst of generosity, the Arts Council has substantially increased its grant to a regional theatre group - but presumably it's looking for a quick return. The Halifax-based company is called IOU.

## Wouldn't it be lovely?

After her successful recordings of *West Side Story* and *South Pacific*, I hear Kiri Te Kanawa has begun dropping her "b"s



Irons and Te Kanawa

as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* for Decca - with some unusual partners. Jeremy Irons is providing the elocution lessons as Professor Higgins. John Gielgud is Colonel Pickering, and Peter Ustinov is her dastardly dad.

## Woad works at the garden

Michael Rennison, associate producer at Covent Garden, has a way with words. Deeply unimpressed by the house's recent *Norma*, he told producer John Copley he found it boring and the stage had been awash with a monotonous blue. When Copley protested that the ancient Britons' garments were woad, not blue, he replied: "Precisely. It was a middle of the woad production." Now Rennison is planning a much better version in August - in Santiago. He is confident of artistic appreciation, but is less certain of the political response in Chile to an opera he regards as a cry for human rights.

Gavin Bell

## Mercury rising

### JAZZ RECORDS

Wayne Shorter Phantom Navigator (CBS 450365)  
Gary Burton Whiz Kids (ECM 1323)  
David Torn Cloud About Mercury (ECM 1322)

Jazz-rock really should carry a health warning. Remembering the urgency of the young Wayne Shorter's playing with the Jazz Messengers, the serene unorthodoxy that he brought to Miles Davis's band, and his occasional moments of grandeur with Weather Report, by comparison the mewling synthesizers and infantile melodies of Phantom Navigator suggest a complete loss of artistic judgement.

Richard Williams

## STAINLESS STEEL GARDEN TOOLS

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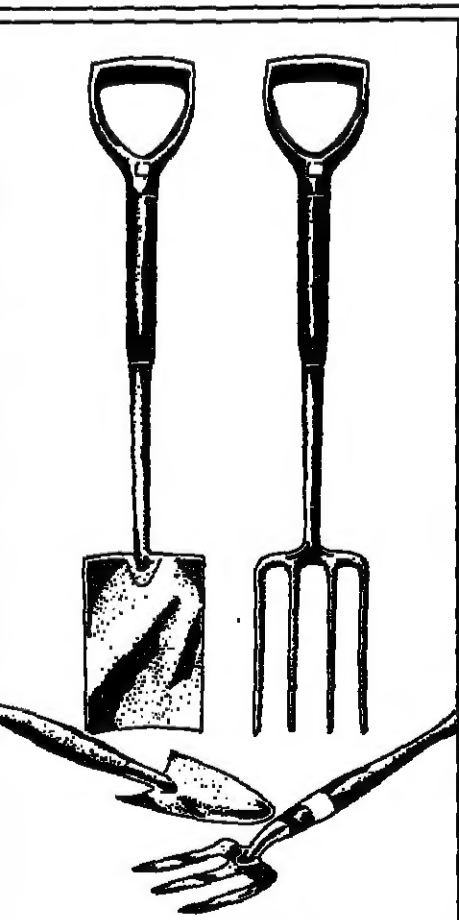
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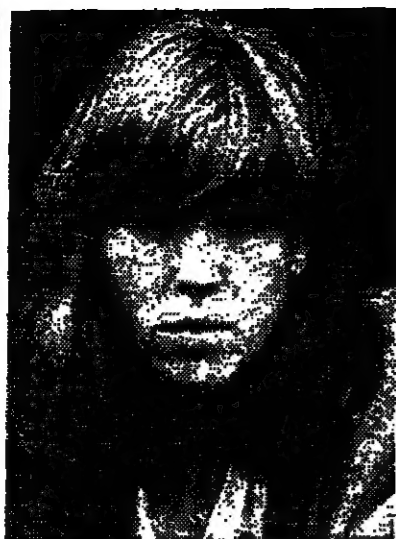


# THE WEEK AHEAD



## THEATRE

**LAST DAYS OF EMPIRE:** Haile Selassie, Lion of Judah, Emperor of Ethiopia, is the subject of a book by the Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuscinski, who specializes in wars and revolutions and was once portrayed on film in Wałdka's *Rough Treatment*. The book, about Selassie's last days, has now been adapted for the stage by Michael Hastings and Jonathan Miller, and will be directed by Miller "in association with" Hastings. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (01-730 2554), from Thurs.



## TELEVISION

**TEACHING SKILLS:** Rudolph Davies, daughter of writer Beryl Bainbridge, is a silent but haunting presence in *Inappropriate Behaviour*, a psychological drama in the Screen Two series written by Andrew Davies, creator of *A Very Peculiar Practice*. An American academic behaviourist (Jennifer Lindor) arrives in the backwoods classrooms of the Cotswolds eager to try cherished theories on delinquency, only to find that behaviour modification can be a two-way process. BBC 2, Sun, 10.30-11.50pm.



## BOOKS

**COUNTRY DEATH:** V. S. Naipaul's *The Enigma of Arrival* is his first novel since the acclaimed *A Bend in the River*. It is about England, and the development of a writer who arrives here from Trinidad in the 1950s. It is set mainly in the ancient countryside near Salisbury, which seems little changed since Hardy; but the ties that once linked country people are falling away and from his cottage the narrator watches the break-up of the established order (Viking £10.95). Naipaul is featured tomorrow on *The South Bank Show* (ITV, 10.30pm).



## GALLERIES

**FRENCH LEAVE:** Roger de Grey was elected president of the Royal Academy in 1984. Since then the burden of administration, as well as teaching commitments, have left him little time to paint. But he does manage two months' work every summer at his house in southern France. His style is impressionistic, close to late Cézanne, and his speciality is landscapes. De Grey and his wife, the painter Flavia Irwin, are exhibiting recent pictures at Gallery 10, Grosvenor Street, London W1 (01-491 8103), from Wed.



## OPERA

**ROLE CALL:** Edita Gruberova, the Czech coloratura soprano, has established herself as the world's leading Zerbinetta in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. She has sung the role all over Europe, including the Salzburg Festival, but not in London until tonight's revival of *Ariadne* at Covent Garden. Anna Tomowa-Sintow takes the title role and Sir Colin Davis, long-time music director at the Royal Opera, returns to conduct Strauss's theatrical comedy. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (01-240 1666), tonight.



## DANCE

**STEPPING OUT:** Jonathan Cope, the youngest of the Royal Ballet's leading men, moves ahead of more established colleagues to dance the gala first night of Anthony Dowell's new production of *Swan Lake*. Qualifies first shown at a Royal Ballet School performance in summer 1982 have since won him most of the classic leads and several parts in new works. Those qualities include more than a touch of daring, which the Devon-born dancer will need. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (01-240 1666), Thurs.

## THEATRE OPENINGS

**AMEN CORNER:** Transfer from the Tricycle, Kilburn, for Anton Phillips's Caribbean production of the James Baldwin drama, set "among Harlem hot-gospellers". Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-437 3686/434 1050/734 5166). Opens Thurs. Press night Mar 17.

**ABOVE ALL, COURAGE:** Wyn Jones directs an adaptation of the bestseller by Max Arthur on the Falklands campaign. Cast includes Amanda Drewry, Tim Faulkner, Alan Lewis, Timothy Morand, Martin Sadler and Gary Webster. New End Theatre (01-784 0022), Opens Thurs.

**FACE DOWN:** Steve Hill's "performance in five movements" is part of the *Home Work* season of new British theatre here. "A man, a woman and a lost weekend on Cape Cod in the Forties." Institute of Contemporary Arts (01-930 3847), Opens Tues.

**GHETTO:** Seanuss Finnegan's tale of a Jewish family taking refuge in Venice to avoid the Spanish Inquisition in the early 16th century is directed for the Padoa Theatre company by Julia Pascal. Riverside Studios (01-748 3354), Opens Wed. Press night Thurs.

**OFFICE SUITE:** The stage premiere of two one-act TV plays by Alan Bennett. First production in new fringe theatre. The Attic Theatre Club, Wimbledon (01-540 0382). Preview Wed; opens Thurs.

## SELECTED

**SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT (18):** The sexual adventures of a black girl in Brooklyn. Cheeky, rough and ready; written and directed by Spike Lee. Metro (01-437 0757). Screen on the Green (01-226 3520), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220).

**WIL WHEATON heads the cast of *Stand By Me* (15),** which depicts the adventures of four small-town adolescent boys in the summer of 1959. The film, based on Stephen King's short novel *The Body*, has a second track decorated with period pop tunes and is directed by Rob Reiner. Cannon Haymarket (01-439 1527), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

**CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD (15):** Polished version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the teacher of deaf adolescents, emotionally involved with a former pupil. Nominated for five Oscars. Empire (01-437 1234), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636).

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**STAGING THE SELF:** Extensive show covering self-portrait photography from 1840 to the present day: intriguing and at times very funny. John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton (0703 559122). Until April 11.

**SNAPSHOT BRITAIN:** A modern attempt at mass observation, is a vast cross-section of British life photographed by amateur snappers. The best 50 pictures will eventually form a time capsule locked away in the museum's vaults. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3689). Until May 10.

## CONCERTS

**HANOVER BEETHOVEN:** On instruments of the period, the Hanover Band under Roy Goodman perform Beethoven's Symphony No 1, Mozart's Symphony No 40, and in the latter's Violin Concerto K 218 the soloist is Monica Huggett. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1081). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**MOZART PLAYERS:** The London Mozart Players Wind Ensemble play Mozart's Serenades K 375 and 388, Nielsen's Quintet, Hummel's Partita. Wigmore Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

**A MAHLER FIRST:** Vast forces including the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra, London Choral Society and many soloists combine for the first-ever South Bank performance of Mahler's Symphony No 8 "Symphony of a Thousand". James Blair conducts. Festival Hall, Wed, 8pm.

**TEMIRKANOV/RLOP:** A Russian evening from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic under Yuri Temirkanov. Tchaikovsky's "Mendelssohn" Symphony and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester (061 834 1712). Thurs, 7.30pm.

**BEETHOVEN'S GHOST:** The first piece Beethoven dignified with an opus number, his Piano Trio Op 1 No 1 of 1794-5, and a later masterpiece in the same genre, Op 70 No 1 "The Ghost", performed by the London Fortepiano Trio on either instruments of the period or modern copies. Wigmore Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

**HUGHES/PHILHARMONIA:** Choral and instrumental works by the Philharmonia Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy-Overture, Rocco Variations (Julian Lloyd Webber, cello) and Sibelius's Symphony No 2. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

**HANDLEY/SNO:** Sax's lovely Orchestral Works and Rachmaninov's Symphony No 1 are the rarities at this concert by the Scottish National Orchestra under Vernon Handley. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031 228 1155). Fri, 7.30pm.

**DRESDEN BEETHOVEN:** Sir Colin Davis conducts the Dresden Staatskapelle, London Symphony Chorus and soloists in Beethoven's Symphony No 9. Festival Hall, Fri, 7.30pm.

## ROCK

**SIMPLY RED:** After one year in the chart *Picture Book* is back in the Top Ten and Mick Hucknall's Soul Magpies are beginning to look like an institution. Tonight, Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 68468); Tue, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2630); Wed, Newcastle City Hall (081 232 8520); Fri, Manchester Apollo (061 273 3775).

**PARTY:** The band fronted by ex-Waterboy Karl Wallinger promote their promising debut *Private Revolution*. Melodically adept rock. Tonight, Stratford, University (041 532 4400); tomorrow, Fat Sam's, Dundee (0882 28181); Tue, Riverside, Newcastle (091 261 4386); Thur, Lancaster University (0524 65201); Fri, Manchester University (061 273 5111).

**MICHELLE SHOCKED:** The Texan singer-songwriter/strummer combines soft folk balladry with a narrative lyric style. Tonight, West End Centre, Alershot (0252 330040); tomorrow, Town and Country, London, NW5 (01-267 3334).

**LOVE AND MONEY:** The "Candy Bar Express" group who have been likened to fellow Scots Hipsway, but who turn out a remarkably similar white funk beat. Tonight, Galashiels College of Further Education (0898 5775); tomorrow, Stirling University (0786 81189); Wed, Coasters, Edinburgh (031 228 3252); Thur, Ritz, Aberdeen (0224 581135); Fri, Dundee University (0382 21841).

## FILMS ON TV

**SAWDUST AND TINSEL (1953):** Ingmar Bergman's more bitter than sweet portrayal of the loves and lives of circus performers. BBC 2, today, 10.55pm-12.35am.

**PRIVATE ROAD (1971):** Low-key, low budget, effective tale of respectable middle-class girl falling for pot-smoking neo-noir-do-well. First TV showing. Channel 4, today, 11.20pm-1.05am.

**NAKED CITY (1948):** The seminal New York documentary-style cop thriller that spawned a thousand copies. Channel 4, Fri, 11.15pm-1.05am.

**SHE'LL BE WEARING PINK PYJAMAS (1985):** Eight women, Julie Walters among them, on Outward Bound course. Well-acted, superior characterization. First TV performance. Channel 4, Thurs, 9-10.45pm.

## TELEVISION

**THE FIRST EDEEN:** First of a polished four-part David Attenborough documentary on the history and geography of the Mediterranean. BBC2, tomorrow, 7.45-8.40pm.

**INTIMATE CONTACT:** The AIDS epidemic invades the executive commuter belt as dynamic electronics businessman Olive Gregory (Daniel Massey) pays the ultimate price of a drunkard celebration with a prostitute. Claire Bloom is his wife in a gruelling four-part drama written by Alma Cullen. ITV, Mon, 9.00-10.00pm.

## OPERA

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** Tonight, Mon and Thurs at 7.30pm Philip Glass's minimalist opera, *Akhnaten*, in his hypnotic, visually stunning production by David Freeman. On Tues and Fri 8pm Jonathan Miller's *Titus*. Phyllis Gannan now takes over from Josephine Barrow, and Albert Rosen conducts. Miller the enterpriser is represented in his all-white, 1920s-style *Ariadne* on Wed and Sat Mar 14 at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

**WELSH NATIONAL OPERA:** Still on home ground with complete performances of their new production of Berlioz's five-act epic, *The Trojans*, taking the week tonight and Sat Mar 14 at 5pm. In between comes their harum-scarum *Barber of Seville* on Thurs at 7.15pm and, a better bet, *La Bohème*, conducted by Sir Colin Mackerras on Fri at 7.15pm. New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (0222 304844).

**KENT OPERA:** Start of their new season with a revival of *Carmen*, with Anne-Marie Mittle in the title role and Ivan Fischer conducting. Thurs and Sat Mar 14. On Fri another revival, *Salome*, with Baroque double-bill of *Rinaldo's* *Orlando* and Purcell's *Didon*. *Agnes*, this time conducted by Andrew Parrott. Not to be missed. All performances start at 7.15pm. The Orchard, Danford (0222 343383).

**CHERUBIN RARITY:** The *Water Carrier*, set in the France of Cardinal Mazzarin, is Morley Opera's rarity of the year: directed by Tom Hawkes, tonight at 7.30pm. Jeannette Cochrane Theatre, Theobalds Road, London WC1 (01-928 6501).

## GALLERIES

**YOKO TERAUCHI:** The Japanese sculptor shows her refined yet robust *Flot Line* sculptures, made from telephone cables, at Victoria Miro, 21 Park Street, London W1 (01-734 5082). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-4pm, free. From Tues until April 4.

**THE UNPAINTED LANDSCAPE:** A Scottish Arts Council touring show illustrating the varied approaches to landscape of 15 major artists, including Richard Long and David Nash. Pier Art Centre, Stromness, Orkney (0856 850209). Tues-Sat 10.30am-12.30pm, 1.30-5pm, free. From today, until March 28.

**THE BORDEAUX COLLECTION:** Etchings by seven artists, including Patrick Proctor and Norman Ackroyd, depicting wine chateaux. Thumb Gallery, 20 D'Arbury Street, London W1, (01-434 2531). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-4pm, free. From Tues, until April 10.

**MARK REICHERT:** The first London exhibition for this American painter. Christopher Hull Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (01-235 0500). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free. From Wed, until April 4.

## SELECTED

**SONIA BOYCE:** Powerful drawings based on a woman's experience of living in an immigrant community. Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 332 7521). Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, free, until March 22.

**JOHN HOVLAND:** Graphics and ceramics by the first among British abstract painters and recent winner of the Athens Art prize. Oxford Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford (0865 242751). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until March 25.

## BOOKINGS

**FIRST CHANCE**

**LUDLOW FESTIVAL:** Priority booking for 28th festival, which includes Richard II at Ludlow Castle. Thumb Gallery, 20 D'Arbury Street, London W1, (01-434 2531). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-4pm, free. From Tues, until April 10.

**MARK REICHERT:** The first London exhibition for this American painter. Christopher Hull Gallery, 17 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (01-235 0500). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free. From Wed, until April 4.

## LAST CHANCE

**IRVING PENN:** Exhibition of photographer's career showing his work in portraiture, fashion, advertising, nudes and still life. Ends tomorrow. V & A, South Kensington, London SW7 (01-589 6371) (01-581 4884/8 recorded information).

**CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL:** Local Blackley in National Theatre production of Ayckbourn comedy. Ends today. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-437 3686/7). 3pm and 7.30pm.

**CAMILLE:** Last performance tonight of Pam Gems's play, based on Dumas novel, and Verdi's *La Traviata*. Cast includes Diana Katts and James Telfer, directed by Peter Walton. Leeds Playhouse, Calverley Street, Leeds 2 (0532 44211).

Theatre: Tony Patrick and Jeremy Kingston: Films: Geoff Brown: Concerts: Max Harrison: Opera: Hilary Fitch: Television: Bob Williams: Radio: Nigel Anderson: Films on TV: Marcel Berlins: Rock: David Sinclair: Jazz: Richard Williams: Dance: John Percival: Galleries: David Lee: Photography: Michael Young: Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

## OUT OF TOWN

**BATH:** The Resistant Rise of Arthur U. Giff Rhys Jones with Brian Glover and Hugh Paddick. Directed by David Gilmore in Bertolt Brecht's comic analogy of the rise of Hitler. Arrives in London, March 31, after Nottingham and Brighton. Theatre Royal (0225) 65065. Opens Tues until March 14.

**BRADFORD:** Kiss Me Kate: Direct from its Stratford opening, the RSC's first-ever US musical is en route for London. Adrian Noble directs Paul Jones, Nicholas McAuliffe, Fiona Hendley, Tim Flavin et al. Alhambra (0274 752000). Opens Thurs.

**LEEDS:** Pravda: Regional premiere of the Fleet Street comedy by Howard Brenton and David Hare, directed by John Harrison, with Philip Voss in the role created at the NT by Anthony Hopkins: Lambert Le Roux. Playhouse (0532 442111). Opens Thurs.

**DEADLY FRIEND (18):** Exuberant, tongue-in-cheek horror romp from Wes Craven, director of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, with Kristy Swanson as the battered daughter given a robot's brain by a teenaged Dr. Frankenstein. Warner West End (01-439 0791), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). From Fri.

**TRICK OR TREAT (18):** A dead rock star of limited talent comes back to life to avenge his critics - an endearing premise recently developed. With Marc Price and Tony Fields; directed by the actor Charles Martin Smith. Prince Charles (01-437 8181). From Fri.

**WIVES: TEN YEARS AFTER (15):** Three wives assess their

## RADIO

**LORD OF THE RINGS:** Ian Holme plays Frodo, John Le Mesurier is Bilbo Baggins, and Gandalf, Michael Hordern, in this adaptation of Tolkien's work. First broadcast in 1981, it returns to Radio 4 by popular demand, and is presented in 13 hour-long instalments. Radio 4, tomorrow, 2.30-3.30pm.

**THE JESUITS:** A major new series in which Lord Rawlinson, former attorney general, investigates the legacy and influence of the Society of Jesus. Radio 3, tomorrow, 5.30-6.15pm.

**SUMMER LIGHTNING:** Vintage Wodehouse, with Richard Vernon as Lord Emsworth and Ian Carmichael as his brother, the Hon. Gallegher Threewood. Radio 4, Wed, 6.30-7.00pm.

**LEGACY OF EMPIRE:** New series, presented by Nick Clarke, tracing the enduring impact of the British Empire on many parts of the modern world. Radio 4, Wed, 7.20-7.45pm.



Travelling companion: Marie Riviere stars as Delphine, the indecisive heroine of *The Green Ray*, with (left) Eric Rohmer

# Rohmer's unscripted hit

Delphine, the Parisian secretary at the heart of Eric Rohmer's film *The Green Ray*, is in a pretty pickle. A girlfriend pulls out of a trip to Greece, and Delphine can find no suitable replacement. So she spends her holiday fidgeting and fretting, changing her itinerary at a moment's notice. For three days she is in Normandy with another friend's family; then she tries the mountains, only to return to Paris on the same day. Biarritz beckons, but the crowds of young pleasure-seekers only intensify her gloom. Waiting for yet another train back to Paris, she meets Jacques, a cabinet-maker, who seems a decent sort. Has her hour come?

Connoisseurs of Eric Rohmer's work, from the earlier series of "Moral Tales" to the current "Comedies and Proverbs", will immediately recognize Delphine's predicament: all Rohmer's young heroines labour mightily over affairs of the heart and the moral mechanics of making a decision. Connoisseurs may also recognize the actress Marie Riviere, a dark-haired beauty, who previously appeared as the devious girlfriend in *The Aviator's Wife* (1980).

But *The Green Ray* - which won top prize at last year's Venice Film Festival - takes the 66-year-old director into new stylistic territory. Previous films have been so lightly woven in their twists, coincidences, exits and entrances, they verged at times on theatrical exercises, kept alive by the vibrancy of players and the scenery. Here, Rohmer began shooting - on 16mm - without any prepared script. Sometimes actors were given salient points to be included in their dialogue; at other times, they fended for themselves.

Rohmer seems as surprised as anyone by the results. "The scene with the boy in Biarritz," he told one interviewer, "is totally improvised. He didn't even know what he wanted of him: I made his acquaintance - three minutes before shooting, because the person who should have come hadn't arrived." Marie Riviere played a far greater part in channelling the tale: Rohmer paid tribute by giving her a screen credit for script collaboration.

A tale unfurled at random can easily lead to disaster. Yet Rohmer has always excelled at modulating his characters' outpourings, scripted or not, and the improvisations blended with ease in the cutting-room. The Venice Festival prize was controversial - many felt Bertrand Tavernier's *Round Midnight* better deserved the honour - but the French public have fallen for Delphine's indecisions with delight.

Geoff Brown

*The Green Ray* (PG) opens on March 13 at the Chelsea Cinema (01-361 2742).

## DANCE

**ROSEMARY BUTCHER:** Two programmes by this pioneering English post-modern choreographer. The Hall, University of Surrey, Guildford (0463 571281 ext 2112) 7.30-9.30pm.

**JANET SMITH:** Last performance of her London week tonight, then to Bracknell (Thurs until Mar 14). Shaw Theatre, Euston Road, London NW1 (01-382 1394); Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell (0344 427272).

**LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE:** New works by Elizabeth Davies, Daniel Ezriow and Robert Cogan are included in the programmes tonight at Oxford and Wed (introductory notes) to Mar 14 at Southampton. Apollo, Oxford (0865 244549); Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 229717).